MASKS 2
CULLEN BUNN
DYNAMITE
EMAN CASALLOS


MASKS 2



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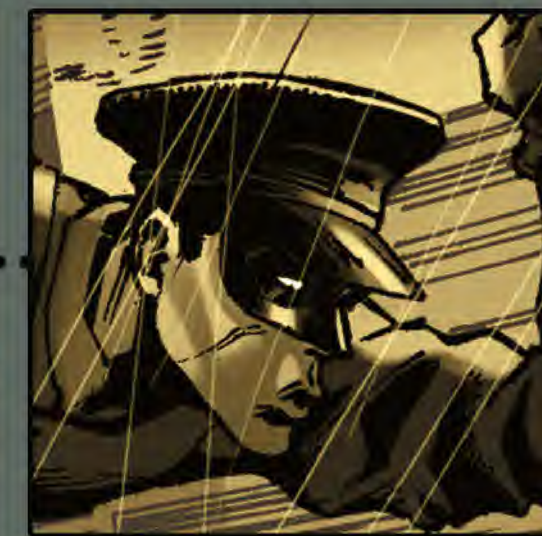
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1920's

1930's


THE SHADOW
(1930's)


GREEN HORNET
(1930's)


KATO
(1930's)


THE SPIDER
(1930's)


BLACK SPARROW
(1930's)


MISS FURY
(1930's)


LADY SATAN
(1930's)

1940's

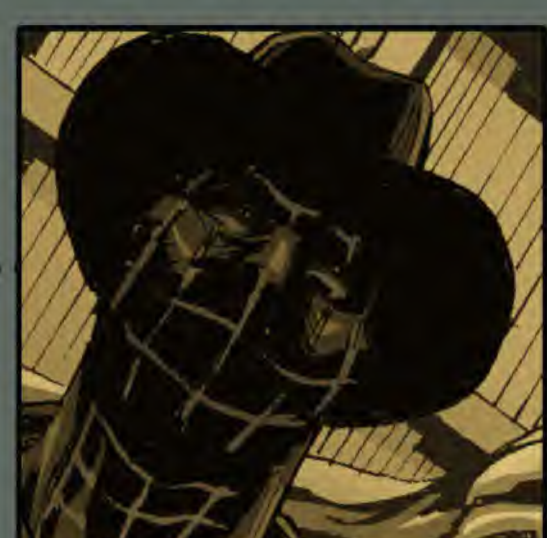
1950's


BLACK TERROR
(1930's)


GREEN LAMA
(1930's)

1960's

1970's


THE SPIDER
(1970's)


BLACK SPARROW
(1970's)


MISS FURY
(1970's)

1980's

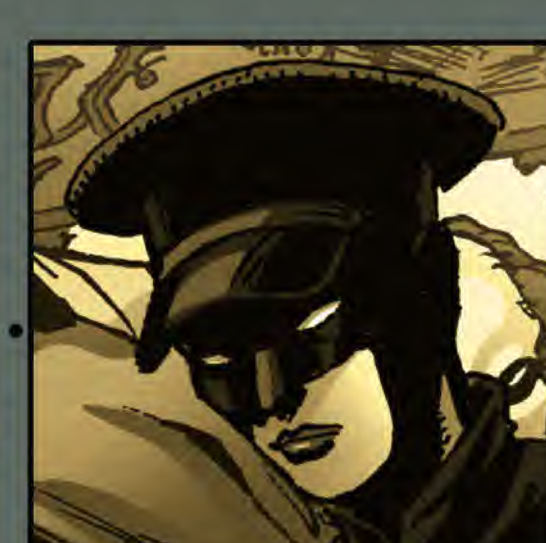
1990's

2000's

NOW


PETER CANNON
(NOW)


GREEN HORNET
(NOW)


MULAN KATO
(NOW)


THE BLACK BAT
(NOW)


LADY SATAN
(NOW)

mask/

noun

1. 1. A covering for all or part of the face, worn as a disguise, or to amuse or terrify other people.

verb

1. 1. Cover (the face) with a mask.

masks/

noun

2. 1. A gathering of the greatest heroes of the pulp age, propelled through time to the modern day, fighting against a threat to all humanity.


ISSUE
ONE



issue #1 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


OCTOBER 15, 1937
NEW YORK HARBOR.
FINAL LOAD, BOYS!
THE SOONER WE GET THESE CRATES ON THE TRUCKS, THE SOONER WE CAN GET A BEER.
HURRY IT UP! MALONE'S CLOSES IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
YOU HEAR SOMETHING, GEORGIE?
HEAR SOMETHING? LIKE WHU–
HAHAHAHAHAHA


SHHRK-KRA-KOW
WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?
THE SHADOW KNOWS.
BLAM
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
BLAM
BLAM


CHWOP
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL THE NEED TO *FLEE.*
BUT THERE ARE *QUESTIONS* THAT MUST BE *ANSWERED.*
PFFFF
YOU MIGHT WANT TO *RETHINK* THIS WHOLE *SKULL MOTIF,* GENTLEMEN.
I DON'T THINK IT DOES MUCH TO *ENDEAR* YOU TO MY COLLEAGUES.
THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE MIGHT HAVE WORN A LITTLE *THIN,* KATO.
THEY'RE *REGROUPING* MORE QUICKLY THAN I--
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
EVERYONE, SHADOW?
DO YOU HAVE TO KILL *EVERYONE* YOU FIGHT?
THE WEED OF *CRIME...*
...YIELDS *BITTER FRUIT.*


VROOOOM
THOSE WEEDS SEEMED TO HAVE *UPROOTED* THEMSELVES!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TAKING THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
TRY NOT TO FORGET THAT THEY DON'T DO US ANY GOOD IF THEY'RE ALL *DEAD*.
I HAVE MATTERS WELL IN HAND, HORNET. DON'T MISTAKE *EFFICIENCY* FOR *BLOODLUST*.
FOR NOW, LET'S CONCERN OURSELVES WITH *CATCHING* THEM.
SKKKKRRR
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE A PROBLEM.
CAN YOU KEEP UP?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.


JUST DRIVE!
THE GREEN HORNET'S RIGHT BEHIND US!
NO SIGN OF THE SHADOW, THOUGH!
MAYBE WE LEFT HIM AT THE PIER!
SKREEE
OW!
DAMMIT, GEORGIE!
THIS IS WHY NO ONE EVER LET'S YOU DRIVE!
WELL, I'M DRIVING RIGHT NOW, AIN'T I?
AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK REALLY HARD BEFORE YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD, FRANCO!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'M--


CRIPES!
GEORGIE! IT'S THE--
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
YEEEEEAAAAAAGH!
VRRRRMMMM
"DON'T MISTAKE EFFICIENCY FOR BLOODLUST," HE SAYS!


P-TING
BLAM
JUSTICE IS A HARSH MISTRESS.
BOSS--
--WE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE!
CHAKKA-CHAK-CHAK-CHAK-CHA


THIS ENDS--
--NOW!
KRUNCH-WHUMP
BEER
SK-CHCHCH


UNNNNNGHH
BLACK TERROR...
LUCKY FOR YOU...AND EVERYONE ELSE...I SHOWED UP WHEN I DID.
YOUR METHODS HAVE PUT MANY LIVES AT RISK.
MY METHODS ARE BEYOND REPROACH.
WHERE JUSTICE IS DEMANDED...
...THE SHADOW DELIVERS!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE YOU'RE A MENACE, SHADOW.
STRANGE.
I'VE HEARD THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.
THE EYES OF SOCIETY ARE UPON US.


...AMAZING...
SHOULD I ASK FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?
...A LOT SCARIER THAN I EXPECTED...
...THE SHADOW...
...DON'T RECOGNIZE THE OTHERS...
THOSE EYES NEED TO KNOW THAT JUSTICE NEVER WAVERS.
MAYBE...BUT FOR NOW I'M MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING ANSWERS FROM OUR SKULL-FACED FRIENDS.
ERRRGH
THESE TWO MIGHT BE READY TO COOPERATE.
THESE CANISTERS... WHY WOULD THEY NEED SO MANY?
IF EVEN ONE OF THESE RELICS IS AS DANGEROUS AS I SUSPECT...
...WE MIGHT HAVE JUST STOPPED THE BIGGEST MASS MURDER IN HISTORY!
THE ACTIONS OF WICKED MEN OFTEN ARE BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF THE RIGHTEOUS.
BE GLAD YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR MOTIVATIONS.
THERE ARE AT LEAST A DOZEN CRATES BACK HERE.
WE NEED TO GATHER UP ANY THAT SPILLED DURING THE CRASH...


...AND DISPOSE OF THEM BEFORE--
HNN!
LOOK OUT!
HE'S GOT ONE OF THE--
THE RED DEATH...
HSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
CIGAR
...WELCOMES YOU INTO HER EMBRACE.


THEY'VE OPENED THE CANISTERS!
THE GAS! DON'T BREATHE IT IN!
THE CIVILIANS--
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELVES!
I'LL SEE TO THESE PEOPLE!
O'CLAIRE
SCHWOP
LET'S HOPE THESE GASMASKS ARE ENOUGH TO PROTECT US FROM THESE VAPORS!
OUR LUCK APPEARS TO HOLD, GREEN HORNET.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SHADOW--
I AM *UNHARMED.*
ESCAPING SUCH A HAM-FISTED TRAP IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ONE SUCH AS MYSELF.


BUT IT APPEARS OUR QUARRY WERE NOT SO *FORTUNATE*.
HOW DID YOU--
NO POINT IN QUESTIONING A *SHADOW*, MY FRIEND.
CONFUSION AND *MISDIRECTION* ARE HIS MOST DANGEROUS WEAPONS.
FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE WAS NEVER DOWN HERE WITH US.
THERE GOES OUR OPPORTUNITY TO *INTERROGATE* THEM.
I SUSPECT THAT WAS THE INTENT.
THESE MEN WERE WILLING TO *SACRIFICE* THEMSELVES TO *PROTECT* THEIR MASTERS.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT BE GOING UP AGAINST SOME REAL HEAVY HITTERS.
PERHAPS MORE THAN YOU REALIZE, GREEN HORNET.


THE THREAT WE FACE IS *GRAVE* INDEED.
SO GRAVE, IN FACT, THAT IT SPANS THE *PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE*.
AND...WHILE BATTLES AGONE HAVE BEEN LOST... WE CAN STILL *CHALLENGE* THE DARKNESS...
...IF WE COMBINE OUR RESOURCES.
THE SPIDER... GREEN LAMA...
...AND...
O'CLAIRE
EYE WEAR
...I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW YOU.
HER NAME IS *LADY SATAN*.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TERROR.
YOU'RE LOOKING... *ATHLETIC*.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR OWN MAN, SPIDER.
I ALLY WITH THOSE WHO CAN HELP MY CAUSE.


BESIDES...
...CAN ANY OF US REALLY TALK ABOUT OUR ASSOCIATES?
STRANGE TIMES CALL FOR--
--STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.
LISTEN TO WHAT THE GREEN LAMA HAS TO SAY...
...BUT TRY TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.
IT WOULD SEEM THE PATHS WE HAVE ALL FOLLOWED HAVE LED TO THE SAME PLACE.
THE UNSEEN FIEND WE FACE MUST BE DANGEROUS INDEED...
...TO WARRANT THE ATTENTION OF SO MANY LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS.
NATURAL BLOOM
AGAIN...YOU ONLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF HOW FAR OUR ENEMY'S TENDRILS REACH.


THROUGH INTENSE MEDITATION AND SELF-HYPNOSIS, I HAVE TORN ASIDE THE VEIL OF TIME AND SPACE.
I HAVE PEERED INTO THE FUTURE...
...AND I HAVE SEEN THE DANGER THAT THREATENS ALL OF MANKIND...
...AND THE HEROES WHO WILL STAND AGAINST IT!


CAN IT BE? ARE WE SEEING THE *FUTURE?*
DOES THE *VILENESS* OF CRIME RUN SO DEEP THAT MASKED VIGILANTES ARE NEEDED EVEN *YEARS HENCE?*
DO MY EFFORTS NOW AMOUNT TO *NOTHING* IN THE DECADES TO COME?
IS THAT--
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WE'RE SEEING, FRIEND.
BUT THAT IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT *YOU.*
I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH FANTASTICAL NOTIONS AS *TIME TRAVEL.*
AND I HAVE LITTLE USE FOR *PROPHECY.*
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP US--*HERE AND NOW*--THEN CUT TO THE CHASE!
THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK...
...AND THE ENEMY WE ALL FACE...
...CAN BE FOUND--
THAP
--HERE!
ATTEND! ATTEND!
THE MASQUERADE BALL!
COME ONE, COME ALL!
COME IN COSTUME OR NOT AT ALL!
1441 WILMOTH LANE
OCTOBER 16


OCTOBER 16th.
INVITATIONS, PLEASE.


ENJOY THE PARTY.
INVITATION, SIR?
I'M AFRAID I GAVE MINE TO SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M MEETING THEM INSIDE SHORTLY.
I'M SURE YOU *UNDERSTAND*...
...AND *WILL* LET ME PASS.
OF COURSE.
ENJOY THE PARTY, SIR.


I SEE THAT YOU FOUND YOUR OWN WAY INTO THIS GATHERING--
--GREEN HORNET.
WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!
GREAT COSTUME, PAL!
THAT'S THE *WRONG* HORNET, I'M AFRAID.
AN EASY ENOUGH MISTAKE TO MAKE.
I'VE SEEN *THREE* OF MY OWN *DOPPELGANGERS* SINCE I ARRIVED.
DESPITE THEIR DISGUISES, I'VE SPOTTED CROOKED POLITICIANS, GREEDY BUSINESSMEN, AND RUTHLESS GANGSTERS AMONG THE ATTENDEES.
THIS GALA HOSTS SOME OF THE MOST WEALTHY...AND *CORRUPT*... MEN AND WOMEN IN THE WORLD.
SOUNDS LIKE WE SHOULD KEEP OUR GUARD UP UNLESS--
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS!

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO *WELCOME* YOU!
I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING OUR LITTLE *SOIRÉE*.
I'M AFRAID TO SAY THAT IT WILL BE THE *LAST* PARTY THAT *ANY* OF YOU ATTEND.
FOR THE *RED DEATH* IS A GRACIOUS...
...BUT *UNFORGIVING*... HOSTESS!

ISSUE
TWO



issue #2 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


REJOICE, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS!
REJOICE!
BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW!
THIS MIGHT VERY WELL BE YOUR **LAST NIGHT ON EARTH!**
AND, IF WE'RE GONNA GO OUT--


THE CHIMERA CLUB.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK. 1978.
--WE'RE GONNA GO OUT DANCING!
WE'RE TAKING THIS BASH TO THE MAX!
AND THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU MAY WEAR A MASK...
...BUT YOU CAN BET THEY'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!
THE INVITES TO THIS PARTY DIDN'T GO OUT TO JUST ANYONE!
MANAGER
THE CREAM IS RISING TO THE TOP TONIGHT!



"SO WHILE THE HAVE-NOTS ARE WAITING ON-LINE OUTSIDE...
"...FILL YOUR HAND WITH ANOTHER GLASS OF THE BUBBLY!
"EX-CLU-SIVITY IS THE NAME OF THE GAME!"
SHHHK


NO SMOKING
HEY...GREAT COSTUME!
COME HAVE A DRINK WITH ME!
TAKE A HIKE.


BUNCH OF RICH ASSHOLES.
COULD FEED A SMALL CITY FOR WHAT THIS PARTY COST.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
I SAID, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
YOUR HOSTESS WILL BE MAKING HER APPEARANCE SOON!
AND I HEAR SHE'S GOT SOME EXCITING DOOR PRIZES TO GIVE OUT!
WONDER WHAT THEY'VE GOT IN THOSE JARS?
LET ME GUESS...
THE VERY BEST RIPPLE MONEY CAN BUY.
EYES ON THE PRIZE, GIRL.
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO SIGHT-SEE.
AUTHORIZED


CHIMERA DANCE HALL
EVERYTHING ALL SET?
BETTER BE.
BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR MONTHS.
THE "QUEEN BEE" IS GONNA FLIP IF ANY OF US WORKERS SCREWED ANYTHING UP.
OH...I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU.
I THINK I'M LOST.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE POWDER ROOM?
I'M SORRY, MA'AM.
THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS.
IF YOU COULD JUST RETURN TO--


THRAK
HHRRRN!
YOU KEEP IT DOWN!
FWUMP


THE TWO OF YOU CAN SLEEP IT OFF IN HERE.
SOMETHING TELLS ME NEITHER OF YOU IS PAID ENOUGH TO WANT A REMATCH ANYWAY.
C-CLICK


NOW...
...THIS...
IS MORE LIKE IT!
LET'S SEE IF THE MAILMAN'S INFO HOLDS WATER.
NOT BAD.
GUESS I OWE THAT OLD FART A BOX OF CIGARS.
I WOULDN'T START CELEBRATING.


YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN AWAY WITH *ANYTHING* YET.
SNAP
WHO'RE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?
THE *MASKED DEBUTANTE?*
THE PARTY'S DOWNSTAIRS, IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.
I THINK I'LL FIND YOUR COMPANY MORE *ENTERTAINING*.
UNLESS, THAT IS, YOU'RE WILLING TO *SURRENDER* STRAIGHT AWAY.
RRRRRR
I WAS *HOPING* YOU'D SAY THAT.


RRRAAAAARGGH!
HNN!
SLLASSH
YOU'RE A FAST ONE, AREN'T YOU?
FASTER THAN YOU!
WE'LL SEE!


YOU'RE STANDING BETWEEN ME AND A *BIG PAYDAY,* SISTER.
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE *COUNTING* ON ME!
I HOPE THEY HANDLE *DISAPPOINTMENT* WITH *GRACE!*
SHA-KRAK
HAAAI!
THE WEED OF CRIME YIELDS BITTER FRUIT!
WHERE'D YOU HEAR *THAT?*
A *FORTUNE COOKIE?*
CLOSE ENOUGH.


BOTH OF YOU—WHOEVER YOU ARE—FREEZE!
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING!
HANDS ON THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD!
ON THE FLOOR!
NOW!
ARE THEY SERIOUS WITH THIS?
I THINK THEY MIGHT BE, YES.
WE CAN FINISH OUR DISCUSSION LATER, RIGHT?
WHY NOT?


THAT WAS FUN. BUT THEY DIDN'T LAST LONG.
NEITHER WILL THE FISH.
SO...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?


ME? NOT MUCH TO KNOW.
GREW UP ON THESE STREETS.
HAD FOUR BROTHERS.
HAD TO BE TOUGH JUST TO SURVIVE MY FAMILY.
"I GUESS I WAS AN EASY TARGET.
"...AND STARTED GETTING INTO OTHER KINDS OF TROUBLE.
"BILLY WAS THE FIRST ONE TO DIE.
"WHEN MY DADDY FOUND THE KID WHO KILLED BILLY...HE PUT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL FOR 3 WEEKS.
"THAT TIME, THE POLICE WERE QUICK TO MAKE AN ARREST.
"MAMA HAD TO WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO SUPPORT US.


"JACK DIED ON THE STREET, TOO.
"MIKEY LIED ABOUT HIS AGE AND JOINED THE ARMY. HE NEVER LOOKED BACK.
"SAMUEL JUST DISAPPEARED.
"MY AUNTIE USED TO TELL STORIES ABOUT THIS GAL IN THE 30'S WHO CALLED HERSELF MISS FURY.
"SHE WAS LIKE ROBIN HOOD...YOU KNOW...TAKE FROM THE RICH, GIVE TO THE POOR.
"I DECIDED I WASN'T WILLING TO GO OUT THE WAY MY BROTHERS DID. I WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
MISS FURY
"I LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT... TO DEFEND MYSELF.
"WHEN I SEE RICH FOLKS LIVING OFF THE BACKS OF THE POOR...
"...I MAKE IT MY JOB TO CHANGE THAT."
"SO...I GUESS THAT'S WHO I AM.
"MISS FURY.
"WHAT ABOUT YOU?"


HOLD ON A SEC.
THIS GUY WANTS A LITTLE MORE.
WHAP
WELL, "MISS FURY."
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU AND I GREW UP ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE TRACKS.
"I WAS PRETTY YOUNG WHEN I DISCOVERED MY GRANDMOTHER'S SECRET.
"SHE GREW UP POOR. HER FAMILY STRUGGLED EVERY DAY JUST TO EAT.
MUSEUM MYSTERY
HOLY ARTIFACT STOLEN!
"BUT GETTING INTO PLACES WAS EASY FOR HER.
"SHE COULD FLASH A SMILE AT GUARDS AND THEY WOULD UNLOCK THE DOORS FOR HER.
"SHE BECAME THE BLACK SPARROW TO EARN A REPUTATION... AND AN EASIER LIFE.
"NEVER AGAIN DID HER FAMILY WANT FOR ANYTHING.


CRIMINAL MAGICIANS FEEL SHADOW'S WRATH!
DECEMBER 26 1948
Victoria Market link, say police
VICTIM No. 1
VICTIM No. 2
"BUT WITH A NAME AND A REPUTATION CAME INFAMY.
"EVENTUALLY, SHE RAN UP AGAINST A VIGILANTE WHO LIKED TO SHOOT FIRST AND NEVER ASKED QUESTIONS.
"SHE PERSUADED THE SHADOW TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.
"THEY DEVELOPED AN UNDERSTANDING.
"BACK THEN, I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT SHE WAS SAYING.
"NOW I DO.
"I DECIDED TO WALK A PATH HONORING BOTH MY GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDFATHER.
"AND MY GRANDMOTHER WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO GUIDE ME IN CARRYING OUT HER LEGACY."
SO...NOW I HELP THOSE I CAN...
...AND HELP MYSELF ALONG THE WAY.


YOU SOUND LIKE ANOTHER RICH KID TO ME.
ONLY YOU LIKE TO PLAY CAT BURGLAR FOR THRILLS.
WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE ME?
I DIDN'T HAVE FAMILY BLOOD SPILLED ON THE STREETS...
...BUT YOU THINK THAT MAKES YOU BETTER THAN ME?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW YOU.
AND I DON'T NEED TO KNOW YOU.
I GOT HERE FIRST...
FIND YOURSELF SOME OTHER SAFE TO CRACK.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN BURGLARY.
AND THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS GOING ON HERE TONIGHT.
I'VE GOT PEOPLE TO SEE.
HOLD ON JUST A SECOND, SISTER--


JESUS!
WHAT *IS* THIS?
I HAVE *NO IDEA*.
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY DIED ON THE RUN.
LISTEN.
NO *MUSIC*.
NO *LAUGHTER*.
WHAT *HAPPENED* TO THE PARTY?


WHATEVER KILLED THEM...
...IF THEY WERE TRYING TO RUN FROM IT...
...THEY WEREN'T FAST ENOUGH.
WHERE ARE YOU *GOING?*
YOU DON'T KNOW IF--
WHAT'S *WRONG?*
RATHER BE BACK HOME...SLIPPING INTO A *BUBBLE BATH?*
I THOUGHT YOU HAD PEOPLE TO MEET.
I TOLD YOU... THERE ARE *BIG THINGS* GOING ON TONIGHT.
SO YOU SAID.
BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE *COMPLETELY CLUELESS* ABOUT WHY YOU'RE HERE.
SOMEONE *WHISTLED*, AND YOU CAME *RUNNING*.
BUT IF THE PEOPLE YOU'RE MEETING WERE AROUND WHATEVER HAPPENED HERE...
...YOU MAY BE OUT OF--


--LUCK.
OR MAYBE YOUR FRIENDS JUST SHOW UP IN THE MIDDLE OF MASS CARNAGE.
BECAUSE... YOU KNOW...
...THAT HAPPENS.


ISSUE
THREE




issue #3 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÁES


25 MILES FROM NEW YORK HARBOR.
5:03 A.M.
SHRA-KABOOM
M SOKOLA
SHRA-BOOM
THRAP


SHRAKKA-THOOM
YOU ARE OUT OF PRACTICE, PETER.
OR WOULD YOU PREFER I CALL YOU THUNDERBOLT?
A DOZEN SMUGGLERS, THOUGH?
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WOULD HAVE DISPENSED WITH THEM IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.
DO ME A FAVOR, TABU.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP TROUNCE THESE GUYS...
...JUST KEEP THE COMMENTARY TO A MINIMUM.


AS YOU WISH, PETER.
BUT...
...AH...
KRAK
...PERHAPS YOU'LL HUMOR ME WHILE I TELL YOU TO DUCK.
YOU'RE LOVING THIS, AREN'T YOU?
SHRAK
DO I ENJOY THE VIOLENCE?
NO.
BUT IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU BACK IN ACTION, FULFILLING THE DESTINY THAT--


RAAAAUUUGHH!
WHOA!
SEE, TABU? THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT TIME FOR A *WARNING!*
TABU?
WHU–
HUNNNF!
SHA-SLAM



YOU'RE A BIG ONE, AREN'T YOU?
AND YOU SCARED MY FRIEND OFF.
NOT NICE.
THRAP
SORRY, PAL.
BUT THIS IS GOING TO STING.
SZZZZLLLKROW
ALL RIGHT...
...YOU'VE PROVEN HOW TOUGH YOU ARE.
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND KEEL OVER ANY TIME...
...NOW.
HHHR HHR
IT TICKLES.



LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE THIS!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
RAAAUGGGHH!
YOU...
YOU SHOT HIM.
AND YOU HIT HIM WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT.
LET'S DEBATE EXCESSIVE FORCE LATER, ALL RIGHT?
WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS.
RAAAUGGGHH!
ALL RIGHT... WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOW ABOUT I GO LEFT...
...AND YOU GO RIGHT.


WHAM
NAME'S BLACK BAT.
AND I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT THIS GUY.
RIGHT.
YOU SAY THAT AFTER HE SHRUGS OFF THOSE .45s.
THAP
I'M ONLY HERE OUT OF PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I...THIS SHIP'S CARGO CANNOT REACH THE CITY.
SO I SUGGEST YOU JUMP CLEAR...
"...WHILE YOU STILL CAN!"
0:10
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'M NOT THROUGH PLAYING WITH YOU YET!
GET OVER HERE AND--


BA-BOOM
GASP!
BAT?
WHERE DID YOU--
PETER CANNON, I PRESUME.
AT LEAST YOU DRESS LIKE HIM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU RECKLESS, HOMICIDAL MADMAN!
WELCOME BACK TO NEW YORK, MR. CANNON.
HRRNN
ENJOY YOUR MORNING SWIM!


I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE RETURNING TO NEW YORK ANY TIME SOON.
ESPECIALLY NOT LIKE *THIS!*
LIFE CERTAINLY HAS A *KNACK* FOR *SURPRISING* YOU, DOES IT NOT?
NICE OF YOU TO SHOW UP AGAIN, TABU.
BUT THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK BELIEVE I'M *DEAD.*
AND I LIKE IT THAT WAY.
RAIN HAS *LITTLE CHOICE* WHERE IT WILL FALL...
...NOR *LIGHTNING* WHERE IT WILL STRIKE.
YOU WERE *CHOSEN* TO STAND AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS, PETER.
"WHAT YOU '*LIKE*' DOESN'T ENTER INTO THE EQUATION."


NOTHING TO SEE HERE.
JUST ANOTHER WAYWARD TRAVELER.
NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY YOURSELF WITH.
WHAT D'YA KNOW?
DON'T SEE THAT EVERY DAY.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT THERE, FLOYD?
WHY D'YOU THINK I SPEND ALL DAY *PANHANDLING?*
GOTTA PAY FOR MY *SERVICE PLAN* SOMEHOW.
P-CHHK
P-CHHK



YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE *PAST* AGAIN.


THE PAST.
YOU MEAN MY *FAILURES*.
VILLAGE AFTER VILLAGE... LAID TO *WASTE*.
USED LIKE *GUINEA PIGS*.
AND I COULDN'T *STOP* IT.
NOW...EVEN WITH THE SHIP GUTTED AND THE CARGO DESTROYED...
...I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THIS *ISN'T* FINISHED.
DO ME A FAVOR, TABU.
BOOK A HOTEL FOR ME... SOMEPLACE *INCONSPICUOUS*.
YOU REALIZE I'M NOT *SIRI*, RIGHT?
BESIDES, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP A *LOW PROFILE*, YOUR *ATTIRE* MIGHT BE AN ISSUE.
YEAH.
I'M WORKING ON THAT.


"GOT YOU BOOKED UP FOR TWO WEEKS... PAID IN FULL."
HOTEL
KULASA
YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO, MR...
...SMITH...
...YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE RAGGED.
I AIN'T GONNA HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH YOU, AM I?
COME ON.
DON'T I LOOK LIKE THE MODEL GUEST TO YOU?
WELCOME, PETER.
IT'S NOT THE RITZ, BUT I TRUST YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE HERE.
I DON'T NEED MINTS ON MY PILLOW.
I JUST NEED A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET SO I CAN CLEAR MY HEAD.
BEFORE YOU GET TOO RELAXED...
...YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THE NEWS.


...AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS EYEWITNESS PHOTOGRAPH SUGGESTS THAT PETER CANNON...
...AKA THUNDERBOLT...
...IS ALIVE EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE DIED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO.
THUNDERBOLT ALIVE AND IN NEWYORK?
PANASONY
NOW, THESE IMAGES HAVE NOT BEEN CORROBORATED...
...BUT SOME BELIEVE THAT THE REAPPEARANCE OF THUNDERBOLT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CARGO VESSEL THAT EXPLODED EARLY THIS MORNING...
RAIN AND LIGHTNING DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, RIGHT?
TABU, I--
I REALLY HATE HOW YOU APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT.
THEN YOU REALLY WON'T LIKE THIS.


WHAT THE--
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE?
HOW DID YOU GET INTO MY ROOM?
TRY TO STAY CALM, MR. CANNON.
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
I AM THE MAN CALLED THE SPIDER.
MY COMPANIONS ARE THE GREEN LAMA...
...AND LADY SATAN.
IT'S KIND OF CUTE HOW YOU ACT LIKE THIS IS THE STRANGEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN.


OUR AGENDA IS THE SAME AS YOURS.
YOU HAVE BEEN PURSUING THE RED DEATH...
...TRYING TO STOP THE DISEASE FROM SPREADING...
...BUT YOU ARE TOO LATE.
THE... RED DEATH?
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT?
BUT I...WE... STOPPED IT.
THE RED DEATH IS MORE INSIDIOUS THAN YOU IMAGINE.
BUT WE... AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS... ARE POOLING OUR RESOURCES.
TOGETHER... AND ONLY TOGETHER...WE CAN STOP IT.
ATTEND! ATTEND! THE MASQUERADE BALL!
COME ONE, COME ALL! COME IN COSTUME OR NOT AT ALL!
1441 WILMOTH LANE
OCTOBER 16
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
IT MEANS...


"...YOU BETTER CALL YOUR TAILOR...AND FAST."
I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND, COMING HERE LIKE THIS.
WELL...
...YOU ARE TALKING TO YOURSELF.
SAYS THE FELLOW NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE.


HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO DIG UP ANYTHING ON THIS LITTLE SOIREE?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
YOUR HOST VALUES *PRIVACY.*
I CAN SEE *WHY.*
MAYBE YOUR *NEW FRIEND* CAN OFFER SOME MORE INSIGHT.
MY NEW--
YOU CLEAN UP NICELY.
YOU'RE *LATE,* THOUGH.
WE ALMOST GOT STARTED WITHOUT YOU.


YOU'RE KIDDING ME WITH THIS, RIGHT?
NOW THIS MIGHT QUALIFY AS THE STRANGEST THING YOU'VE SEEN.
SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
THIS IS SOME SORT OF COSPLAY CONVENTION OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
HEH.
THOSE WERE MY FIRST THOUGHTS, TOO.
THIS IS ALL A LITTLE TOO HEAVY FOR ME.
SOMEONE DOESN'T OFFER SOME ANSWERS--AND SOON--I'M OUTTA HERE.
I, TOO, GROW WEARY OF THESE MYSTERIES.
I WOULD DRIVE THIS RED DEATH TO THE VERY GATES OF HELL...
...BUT SHE AVOIDS JUSTICE WHILE WE TALLY HERE.
"AND DARKNESS AND DECAY AND THE RED DEATH HELD ILLIMITABLE DOMINION OVER ALL."

THESE ARE THE FINAL LINES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE'S TALE--"THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH."
IT IS FOR THIS STORY THAT OUR ENEMY HAS NAMED HERSELF.
AND SHE LONGS FOR NOTHING LESS THAN THE DOMINION PROMISED IN THAT TALE.
"EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS CHALLENGED THE RED DEATH.
"AND YET SHE RESURFACES...
"...TIME AFTER TIME.
"AND LIKE THE RED DEATH HERSELF...
"...THIS EVENT...THIS MASQUERADE BALL... IS A CONSTANT."
IT TAKES DIFFERENT FORMS... BUT IT IS EVER-PRESENT.
REACHING BEYOND TIME AND SPACE, I HAVE BROUGHT EACH OF YOU TO THIS PLACE.
SO THAT WE MAY STAND...
...TOGETHER...
...AGAINST THE POWER OF ENTROPY AND DESTRUCTION ITSELF!


ISSUE
FOUR



issue #4 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


"THE END OF THE WORLD..."
BABUYAN


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU DESTROYED EVERYTHING.
YOUR QUEST FOR *REVENGE*... TAKEN TO SUCH TERRIBLE *EXTREMES*.
DJ MYNX
AND YOU COULDN'T STAND TO BE ALONE.


...THE FORMULA REALLY ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT...
...YOU'LL FIND THE MECHANICS OF THE GUN VASTLY IMPROVED, I THINK...
...DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D CHOOSE TO EMULATE ME...
...I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS...
...THERE ARE THINGS WE ARE NOT MEANT TO UNDERSTAND...
...CAN'T EXPECT ME TO PASS UP THIS CHANCE...
...LOVELY TO BE REMEMBERED, BUT YOU COULD BE ANYONE...
I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE QUESTIONS...
...BUT THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS.
THERE ARE REASONS FOR ALL OF US BEING HERE.


BE THAT AS IT MAY, SPIDER...
...BUT START BY EXPLAINING HOW THE RED DEATH IS EVEN A *CONCERN.*
MY ALLIES AND I DEALT WITH HER.
IT SEEMED ONLY RECENTLY...
...BUT IF MY WITS DO NOT DECEIVE ME...
...IT WAS LONG BEFORE MOST OF THOSE IN THIS ROOM WERE EVEN BORN!
EACH AND EVERY PERSON AMONG US HAS CHALLENGED THE RED DEATH.
WHEN THE SHADOW METES OUT *JUSTICE*...
...VILLAINS ARE NOT POISED TO *RESUME* THEIR WICKED WAYS.
YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE *RELATED* TO THAT--
HUSH.
THE TRUTH IS FAR MORE *INSIDIOUS* THAN ANY OF YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.
I SPEAK OF *HISTORY* AND THE *FUTURE* IN THE SAME BREATH.


"AS A YOUNG GIRL, DIANA LIVED A LIFE OF PRIVILEGE AND OPPORTUNITY.
"HER FATHER WAS A POWERFUL MAN... WEALTHY IN A WAY THAT FEW WERE DURING VERY ROUGH TIMES.
"HIS WEALTH AND POWER HAD BROUGHT HIM INTO A SECRET ORDER OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS.
"WITH THEIR WEALTH AND INFLUENCE, THEY GUIDED THE COURSE OF THE WORLD.
"AND THEY CELEBRATED THEIR TRIUMPHS IN LAVISH BACCHANALIA.
"IN ONE MOMENT, THOUGH, ALL THAT CHANGED.
"SOME GRIEVANCE OR SLIGHT... WHETHER FACTUAL OR PERCEIVED...COST DIANA'S FATHER HIS LIFE.



"THEIR MONEY STRIPPED FROM THEM, THEY WERE CAST OUT FROM THE WORLD THEY HAD KNOWN.
"DIANA'S MOTHER DID WHAT SHE COULD, BUT THE WORLD WAS CRUEL...
"...AND FOR THE YOUNG GIRL IT WAS ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.
"ON HER OWN, DIANA HAD TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE.
"NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK.


"NOTHING IN HER LIFE CAME EASY FOR HER.
"AND SHE PRAYED FOR DEATH.
"AND ONE NIGHT, DEATH FOUND HER...
"...IN THE FORM OF A STRANGE VISITOR.
"LITTLE DID SHE KNOW THE TRUE NATURE OF THAT VISITOR...
"...BUT SHE CAME WITH AN OFFER...
"...A CHANCE TO AVENGE HERSELF...
"...AND IT ALL BEGAN WITH A VIAL OF BLOOD.


"TOGETHER... THEY SET ABOUT CHANGING DESTINY.
"THOSE CHANGES WERE DRASTIC AND DEADLY.
"AND THEY HAD JUST BEGUN.
"THE OLDER WOMAN HAD IDEAS AND PLANS...
"...SUCH TERRIBLE IDEAS...
"...SUCH GHASTLY PLANS...
"AND IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH FOR HER TO FIND OTHERS READY TO FIGHT TO RECLAIM THEIR OWN LOST LIVES AS WELL."


ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE RED DEATH?
THAT HER FOLLOWERS ARE REINVENTING HER OVER THE YEARS?
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, MR. CANNON.
THERE IS ONLY ONE RED DEATH.
THERE ARE JOURNEYS I HAVE TAKEN IN BETWEEN MOMENTS...
...TRIPS THAT HAVE TAKEN ME NOT JUST TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE...
...BUT TO THE CORNERS OF TIME ITSELF.
DURING ONE OF THOSE TRIPS I SOUGHT TO DISCOVER AS MUCH ABOUT RED DEATH AS WAS POSSIBLE.
AND MY CURIOSITY COST ME.
THIS ELDERLY WOMAN YOU DESCRIBED...
...SHE POSES NO DANGER.


"SHE'S *DEAD*."
ASSUME WHAT YOU WANT.
BUT I HEARD OF A FUN PARTY GOING ON...LOTS OF RICH FOLKS...
...AND I ALREADY HAD A *MASK*.
BESIDES...
...WE CAN'T LET THE *BOYS* HAVE *ALL* THE FUN.
HORNET!
THE RED DEATH!
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!


NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
THAT'S JUST IT, KID.
WHU–
YOU *CAN'T* HELP.
I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY THE GREATEST WARRIORS IN HISTORY!
LEONIDAS!
ATILLA!
GENGHIS KHAN!
NO MAN CAN–
SKLORTCH


NICE OF YOU TO SHOW UP, BLACK TERROR.
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS...YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN *ENTRANCE*.
SHADOW... HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT WHEN YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SHOW UP, THE PARTY'S USUALLY *OVER?*
THIS...
..THE SHADOW *KNOWS*.
THE RED DEATH WENT THROUGH HERE!
SMASH
BUT IF THAT IS THE CASE...


"...WHERE DID SHE GO?"
NOT "WHERE."
BUT "WHEN."
I'M ASSUMING WHEN YOU SEARCHED THE ROOM, YOU FOUND SOME EVIDENCE OF SCORCHING.
ON THE FLOOR.
OR THE WALL PERHAPS.
WE DID.
A CIRCULAR PATTERN ON THE FLOOR.
WHILE HER ELDERLY COUNTERPART HAD EXPIRED...
...THE RED DEATH ESCAPED INTO THE TIME STREAM.
HER JAUNT THROUGH TIME WAS LESS CONTROLLED.
SHE HAD NO CHOICE IN WHEN SHE LANDED.
AND WHERE...
...I MEAN...


"...WHEN WAS THAT?"
THIS IS NOT WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR!
CONSIDER IT A BID FOR REDEMPTION!
ARE YOU STILL RIBBING ME BECAUSE YOU CAUGHT ME CRACKING A SAFE?
LET'S NOT FORGET THAT BY STOPPING ME YOU WERE TECHNICALLY HELPING THE BAD GUYS!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
NEITHER ONE OF US HAD ANY IDEA WHAT WE WERE GETTING INTO.
AND NOW THAT WE DO–
--WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
"THE RED DEATH WAS DEFEATED ONCE AGAIN."


ONLY THIS TIME, SHE WAS UNABLE TO FLEE THROUGH TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT!
THERE'S NO ESCAPING THE TWO OF US.
WE'RE JUST TOO FAB!
IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A FUNHOUSE MIRROR.
BUT HER DEFEAT IN THE 70s DID NOT STOP HER.
SHE WENT INTO HIDING.
SHE WAITED, TOOK HER TIME AND REBUILT HER VENGEFUL EMPIRE...
...UNTIL NEARLY FORTY YEARS LATER...
...WHEN SHE ENCOUNTERED...
...AND WAS DEFEATED...
...BY PETER CANNON.


HOLD ON.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
THAT NEVER HAPPENED.
I ROUGHED UP SOME OF HER THUGS.
BUT THAT'S IT.
I NEVER ENCOUNTERED THIS RED DEATH LADY.
YES, YOU DID.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.
TIME, AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT, IS AN ILLUSION...
...A MASK...
EVERYTHING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED...
...EVERYTHING THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN...
...IS OCCURRING RIGHT THIS INSTANT.
BUT THE ILLUSION OF TIME ALLOWS OUR MINDS TO MAKE SENSE OF THESE EVENTS.
THE PAST... THE PRESENT... THE FUTURE.
WE HAVE TRAINED OURSELVES TO BELIEVE THEY ARE DISTINCT FROM ONE ANOTHER.
BUT THEY ARE NOT.


"THIS IS THE BIG BANG."


I...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I... REMEMBER.
BUT IF EVENTS HAVE UNFOLDED AS YOU DESCRIBED...
...IF THE RED DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED TIME AND AGAIN...
...WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US ALL HERE?
EVEN IN DEFEAT, THE RED DEATH SOWS THE SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION.
THE DISEASE SHE USED AS A WEAPON...
...SHE COULD NOT CONTROL SUCH WILD AND DANGEROUS FORCES.
SHE HAS MURDERED THE WORLD.
MORE THAN THAT...
...SHE'S BROKEN THE VERY CONCEPT OF TIME.


AND IT IS MY FAULT.
I HAVE DABBLED ON THE FRINGES OF SCIENCE.
MY EXPERIMENTS YIELDED A DEVICE I HOPED WOULD BE USED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND.
INSTEAD, IT HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A *WEAPON*.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A *TIME MACHINE*.
HE *INVENTED* A TIME MACHINE.
AND SOMEHOW... THIS RED DEATH TOOK CONTROL OF IT.
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
AND HER JAUNTS THROUGH TIME HAVE *WEAKENED* THE FABRIC OF REALITY.
THE *ILLUSION* OF TIME IS *BREAKING* ALL AROUND US.
JUST AS SHE HAS POISONED THE EARTH, THE RED DEATH HAS POISONED TIME ITSELF.
BUT WE CAN TURN HER MACHINATIONS AGAINST HER.
TIME IS STILL IN *FLUX*.
THERE IS OPPORTUNITY YET TO–
WAIT A MINUTE.
IF THIS RED DEATH IS HOPPING THROUGH TIME...
...IF SHE CAN SEE EVERYTHING...
...COULDN'T SHE SEE US, TOO?
WOULDN'T SHE KNOW WE WERE COMING AFTER–



VVVVVVZZZZZZZZZZZZ
WHAT IS THAT?
WHATEVER IT IS...
...IT WASN'T HERE A SECOND AGO!
IT LOOKS LIKE--
--A BOMB!
VRAAAAAAAAAAASH


UH...
...DID WE...


...JUST GET THROWN...


...THROUGH *TIME?*


ISSUE
FIVE



issue #5 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


RAAAAHHRR!
THIS IS SO NOT COOL!


WHAMMO
RRRRRNNNNN
FWU-WHUMP
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST *PUNCHED OUT* A *T-REX!*
IT'S *ACTUALLY* AN *ALLOSAURUS.*
YOU CAN TELL BY THE *FINGERS.*


I HATE TO INTERRUPT THIS CONVERSATION THAT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN...
...BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TURN YOUR ATTENTION TO THE SKY.
I THINK GREEN LAMA IS ABANDONING US.
HEY! DOWN HERE!
WAIT FOR US!
THIS CAN'T BE REAL, RIGHT?
I SAW A MOVIE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...A GERMAN U-BOAT IN A LOST WORLD...
...BUT THAT'S ALL JUST MAKE BELIEVE.
PUNCHING THAT DINOSAUR FELT REAL ENOUGH.
I ALMOST BROKE SOME FINGERS.
REAL OR NOT...
"...I ONLY WANT TO KNOW ONE THING.


"HOW DO WE GET BACK HOME?"
ANOTHER MASQUERADE?
ISN'T THIS WHERE WE STARTED?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
NOTE THE ATTIRE.
IT'S ALL WRONG FOR THE 30s...
...OR FOR ANY OF OUR TIMELINES.
THE ARCHITECTURE IS RENAISSANCE IN NATURE.


THERE'S ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE.
MIGHT AS WELL TALK TO THE LOCALS.
EXCUSE ME.
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHERE, EXACTLY, WE ARE?
W-WHERE?
WHY...HAVE YOU ENJOYED TOO MUCH *WINE*, MY FRIEND?
SURELY YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE!
SURELY YOU REMEMBER OUR *HOST!*
THIS IS *PRINCE PROSPERO'S* PARTY, OF COURSE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
GET OUT? IS THIS A *JEST?*
YOU CANNOT *LEAVE*. NONE OF US CAN!
PRINCE PROSPERO HAS WELDED THE DOORS *SHUT!*
WAIT.
PROSPERO... WELDED DOORS...
DOES HE MEAN–


"–LIKE IN 'MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH?'"
THE POE STORY?
EXACTLY.
IN THE STORY, A PLAGUE RAVAGED THE LAND.
PRINCE PROSPERO DECIDED TO LOCK THE POOR AND SUFFERING OUT OF HIS CASTLE...
...WHILE HE THREW A GALA FOR A THOUSAND OF HIS FRIENDS.
BUT THE RED DEATH FOUND THEM...
...AND KILLED THEM ALL...
...WHEN THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT.
"WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?"



I MEAN...THIS IS NEW YORK, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S ALL GONE MAD.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
THIS PLACE IS A GHOST TOWN.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE RED DEATH HAS SENT US FAR FROM WHERE WE CAN MAKE ANY IMPACT ON HER PLANS.
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE FUTURE THAT THE SPIDER WAS SPEAKING OF...
...A WORLD WIPED OUT BY PLAGUE.
I IMAGINE OUR COMPATRIOTS HAVE SHARED A SIMILAR FATE...
...AND BEEN CAST THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.
WHEREVER THEY ARE...
NEW


...IT'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN *THIS*.
WELL...THIS MOST CERTAINLY IS A *BLEAK* TIME...
...SO IT WOULD SEEM THEY SENT THE RIGHT GROUP.
BLACK BAT, *BLACK* SPARROW, *BLACK* TERROR, THE *SHADOW*.
ALL THIS *BLACKNESS*.
AND YOU-- LADY *SATAN*.
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A *RAY OF SUNSHINE* EITHER.
YOU'VE NEVER *COMPLAINED* ABOUT MY *DEVILISH* SIDE BEFORE, TERROR.
YOU WERE PART OF SPIDER'S LITTLE ENTOURAGE.
SURELY YOU HAVE SOME *CLUE* AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE.


APPARENTLY THE SHADOW DOESN'T *ALWAYS* KNOW.
BUT I'M AFRAID I'M ALMOST AS *CLUELESS* AS THE REST OF YOU.
WHEN THE SPIDER CAME TO ME, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE POSSIBLY USING HIS *TIME TRAVEL* TECHNOLOGY FOR *ILL PURPOSES*.
HE WANTED SOME *MYSTIC* HELP TO PEER ACROSS THE VEILS.
AND WHEN YOU LOOKED BEYOND THE VEIL...
...*WHAT* DID YOU SEE?
THIS IS WHAT I SAW...
...*DESTRUCTION* AND *EMPTINESS*...
...AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE...
...ALTHOUGH WITNESSING IT FIRST HAND IS A BIT *DIFFERENT*.
EMPTINESS, EH?
YOU SHOULD HAVE LOOKED A LITTLE HARDER...
...BECAUSE WE ARE *NOT* ALONE.
"I SENSE...SOMETHING *STRANGE*..."


...EVEN STRANGER THAN OUR PRESENCE HERE.
WHERE'S HE LEADING US?
OR IS HE REALLY LEADING US ANYWHERE?
GUY'S LIKE A GHOST.
WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM.
HE PREDATES ME.
THEN AGAIN, SO DO BOTH OF YOU.
NOT THAT DATES SEEM TO MATTER ANYMORE.
THE GREEN LAMA IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS OF HIS TIME.


"HE HAS CONTROL OVER VAST MAGICAL POWERS...
"...BIZARRE ENERGIES...
"...NATURE...AND EVEN LIFE ITSELF."
IT'S SAID HE CAN EVEN RAISE THE DEAD WHEN IT SUITS HIM.
YEAH?
HEY! MR. GREEN JEANS!
WOULD YOU CARE TO ENLIGHTEN THE REST OF US AS TO WHAT IT IS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
GROUND CONTROL TO GREEN LAMA!
ARE YOU READING US?
WE ARE NOT THE ONLY MISPLACED PRESENCE HERE.
I SHOULD CAUTION YOU, THOUGH...
...YELLING LIKE THAT IS SURE TO ATTRACT–


--UNWANTED ATTENTION!
SKREEEEE
BONG...
BONG...
BONG...


BONG...
BONG...
BONG...
BONG...
NO USE.
IT'S SEALED FAST.
BONG...
SAME HERE.
BONG...
BONG...
THAT WAS JUST A STORY THOUGH, RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I READ IT.
FRESHMAN ENGLISH IN HIGH SCHOOL.
AT LEAST I THINK I READ IT.
BONG...
WHAT YOU THINK IS IRRELEVANT.


BONG...
IT WOULD SEEM THE MAN OF THE HOUR IS AMONG US.
MY FRIENDS...
...IT BRINGS ME SUCH PLEASURE TO WITNESS TONIGHT'S FESTIVITIES.
I ASK OF YOU...
...DO NOT MOURN THE PEASANTS DYING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
LET PITY BE CAST ASIDE...
...AS EASILY AS ONE MIGHT CAST ASIDE A MASK.


"TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE!"
WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE HERE.
GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
NO ONE NEEDS TO GET HURT.
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE LISTENING.
EVIL IS THE PERENNIAL SEED BLOOMING WITHIN THE HEARTS OF MAN.
THE SHADOW KNOWS!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
BLAM BLAM BLAM


LOOK AT THEM!
THEY'RE SICK OR SOMETHING!
BLAM
BLAM
THEN WE'RE PUTTING THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY!
POW
BOYS, I THINK WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
NOW!
BOYS?
DID YOU FORGET I--
WELL...
...WHO AM I TO ARGUE OVER GENDER RECOGNITION AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I'LL CLEAR A PATH!
SHOOOOOM


"THE REST OF YOU MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!"
SKREEEEE
I'D ALMOST RATHER FIGHT ONE BIG DINOSAUR...
...THAN A BUNCH OF REALLY ANGRY SMALL ONES!
CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!
AND JUST KEEP--
SKREEEEEE
RSSSTTLLL-
SHRK-RSSSTL
THE BEASTS ARE SUBDUED...
...AND I HAVE UNCOVERED THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE I DETECTED.


WHAT THE–
IT'S SOME SORT OF *CEREMONIAL SITE.*
LOOK AT THEM.
LOOK AT ALL THESE *MASKS!*
BUT WHO PUT THEM HERE?
DINOSAURS AND HUMANS...
...THEY DIDN'T EXIST AT THE SAME TIME.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING...


"...SOMEONE'S PLAYING GAMES WITH US!"
TONIGHT IS TIME FOR A NEW DANCE TO BEGIN--
--THE DANCE OF THE RED DEATH!
WELCOME TO THE PARTY THAT WILL SAVE YOUR LIVES!
I DO SO HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE EVENING'S FESTIVITIES.
CLAP CLAP CLAP



DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND *YOU* BEING HERE.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT POE'S STORY WAS TRUE...
...THAT WE'RE *LIVING* THAT STORY RIGHT NOW?
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
BUT I DON'T IMAGINE POE'S RED DEATH WAS SO... *UNIMPOSING*.
IF NOTHING ELSE, THOSE *GLASSES* OF HIS DON'T SCREAM "DEATH PERSONIFIED."
EXCUSE ME. I AM AT A LOSS.
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
THIS IS OUR ANNUAL *RE-ENACTMENT* OF "MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH."
BUT WHY WOULD THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ALL BE BARRED SHUT?
OH.
YOU KNOW...
...IT KEEPS THE *SACRIFICES* FROM ESCAPING!
"THESE CREATURES..."


JUST OUR LUCK WE STUMBLE UPON THE APOCALYPTIC MUTANTS WITH STICKTOITNESS!
...DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!
LUCK TENDS TO FAVOR THOSE WHO NEED IT LEAST.
AND THESE PEOPLE MOVE AGAINST US WITH PURPOSE...
...AS IF SERVING SOME UNSEEN MASTER!
THIS WAY!
I'LL COVER YOU...
...HOLD THEM OFF WHILE THE REST OF YOU MAKE YOUR ESCAPE.
NONSENSE, TERROR.
WE'LL ALL LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
QUICKLY!
OVER HERE!


BEFORE THEY SEE!
SPIDER!?
LADY SATAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU SAID WE'D ALL LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
AND WE SHALL.
JUST GIVING OUR FRIENDS SOMETHING *ELSE* TO CHASE.
AN *ILLUSIONARY* DECOY!
SPIDER?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
ARE THE *OTHERS* WITH YOU?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
THE OTHERS?
WHO ELSE COULD YOU MEAN?
I'VE BEEN HERE... *ALONE*...FOR *WEEKS!*


ISSUE
SIX



issue #6 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


WAIT A MINUTE.
YOU'RE SAYING YOU WERE ALL TRANSPORTED HERE FROM DIFFERENT TIMES...
...WITH NO WAY OF GETTING BACK WHERE YOU BELONG....
WHY DOES THIS *CONFUSE* YOU SO?
IS *TIME TRAVEL* NOT PART OF YOUR STOCK AND TRADE, SPIDER?
IT WAS *YOU* WHO BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU FAIL TO SEE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF YOUR PRESENCE HERE.
MORE SPECIFICALLY...
...YOUR *DISAPPEARANCE* FROM YOUR OWN TIME.
THE *RED DEATH* HAS PLANS IN PLAY WHICH ARE FAR MORE NEFARIOUS THAN SIMPLY DISPLACING US THROUGHOUT TIME.
HAVE YOU LEARNED *ANYTHING* OF HER IN THIS APOCALYPTIC WASTELAND?
I HAVE INDEED.
THE RED DEATH HAS MANAGED TO *RALLY* THIS FUTURE'S SURVIVORS.
THEY SEE HER AS SOME SORT OF *RELIGIOUS LEADER*.
THEY EXPECT HER TO *DELIVER* THEM FROM THIS CURRENT *DESOLATION*.


YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...
...THESE PEOPLE HAVE *NO HOPE*.
BUT SHE HAS GIVEN THEM SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
SO THE PEOPLE ARE RALLYING AROUND THIS WOMAN...
...REGARDLESS OF HER *BRUTAL* WAYS.
THE RED DEATH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHO THAT IS?
YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HER!
I JUST POPPED INTO THIS TIMELINE ON ONE OF MY REGULAR LITTLE JAUNTS TO THE FUTURE.
WHEN I ARRIVED AN AMBUSH HAD BEEN SET FOR ME.
I WAS OVERWHELMED...
...AND THEY MADE OFF WITH MY TIME MACHINE.
LUCKILY... IF THE TIMELINE HOLDS *TRUE*...
...I HAVE *ANOTHER* TIME MACHINE... A *PROTOTYPE VERSION*... STORED NOT FAR FROM HERE.
I WAS HEADING THERE WHEN I SAW YOU BEING CHASED.


YOU HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THE RED DEATH?
THE RED DEATH?
AS A PERSON?
NO...ALTHOUGH THE DISEASE THAT RAVAGED THIS WORLD WAS KNOWN BY THAT NAME.
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
BUT THERE ARE STRANGE TEMPORAL ENERGIES SURROUNDING HIM.
I HAVE EXAMINED HIS AURA BEFORE, BUT THIS ENERGY IS DIFFERENT.
IT SEEMS ALMOST AS IF IT WERE TAINTED.
TAINTED?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
COULD THIS BE SOME SIDE EFFECT OF BEING CAST THROUGH TIME?
COULD OUR PRESENCE HERE... AND THE PRESENCE OF OUR COMRADES IN OTHER TIMELINES... HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES?
SOUNDS LIKE WE JUST HAVE ONE MORE REASON TO GET BACK HOME.
THAT'S THE PLAN.
IN THIS ERA, THE PROTOTYPE TIME MACHINE WILL HAVE BEEN IN STORAGE FOR DECADES...
...BUT IT SHOULD STILL BE IN WORKING ORDER...
...IF WE CAN MAKE IT TO MY LAB.


"AND GET AWAY FROM THIS GOD FORSAKEN TIME!"
DINOSAURS AND HUMANS DIDN'T EXIST AT THE SAME TIME?
SAYS THE GUY WHO KNOCKED OUT A T-REX FIVE MINUTES AGO.
I CAN HEAR YOU, YOU KNOW....
...AND IT WAS AN ALLOSAURUS.
THESE MASKS, LIKE US, DO NOT BELONG HERE.
WHATEVER HAPPENED THAT SENT US BACK HERE MUST BE HAVING A RIPPLE EFFECT ACROSS TIME.
YOU THINK THESE MASKS CAME BACK WITH US?
PERHAPS NOT THE MASK THEMSELVES...
...BUT THE MAKERS OF THE MASKS ARE CLEARLY FROM A TIME CLOSER TO OUR OWN.
OUR TIME?
MINE OR YOURS?


HSSSK!
YOU HAVE A LIMITED PERSPECTIVE, MR. CANNON.
I MEAN BOTH OUR TIMES.
WE APPEAR TO BE IN AN ERA MILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE ANY OF US WERE BORN.
HOLD ON A MINUTE, GREEN JEANS.
ARE YOU TELLING ME WE'RE STUCK WITH ALL THESE DINOSAURS?
THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE OUR PREDICAMENT, YOUNG LADY.
I HAVE A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE PLANET.
I CAN FEEL HER POWER RUNNING THROUGH ME AT ALL TIMES.
RIGHT NOW, I MUST MAINTAIN A DISTANCE FROM THE GROUND BECAUSE WHEN I CONNECT WITH THE EARTH, THE PAIN IS EXCRUCIATING.
THE PLANET IS SCREECHING IN TORMENT.
WHATEVER CAUSED US TO COME HERE--


"–IS TEARING THE PLANET APART!"
CATCH THEM!
BUT REMEMBER...
...NO *BLOODSHED* IN THE *BALLROOM!*
IT IS A WASTE OF GOOD *SUFFERING!*
"MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH!"
AS FAR AS STORIES GO...
...THIS IS ONE I DEFINITELY HAVE *NO INTEREST* IN RE-ENACTING!
THE ONE CLAIMING TO BE THE *RED DEATH!*
WE NEED TO GET TO HIM!
IF WE CAN GRAB HIM, MAYBE HE'LL CALL OFF HIS FRIENDS!


THWAP
WE NEED MORE HELP HERE!
THEY'RE NOT STOPPING!
THUD
WHAP
WHAMM
WHICH ONES WERE WE RESCUING?
HMM.
GOOD QUESTION.


THIS WAY!
I'D LISTEN TO THE LADY!
FORGET THE RED DEATH!
IF WE STAY HERE, WE DIE!
NO TIME TO WASTE, MULAN.
OUT OF SLEEP GAS!
RUN, KATOS!
RUN!
"THIS PLACE HAS GONE TO HELL."


MOST OF THIS CITY, AND I IMAGINE THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL, HAS TURNED INTO GANG-CONTROLLED TURF.
THAT TERRITORY IS RULED BY THE *WARLORD* CALLING HIMSELF *DADDY CUTTHROAT*.
DA'S
DADDY CUTTHROAT IS *EX-MILITARY*.
MANAGED TO BUILD UP A NASTY ARSENAL AND AN ARMY TO USE IT.
BLOCK BY BLOCK, HE EXPANDS HIS TERRITORY.
ENOUGH CHATTER!
THE SOONER WE GET TO YOUR TIME MACHINE...


"...THE SOONER WE LEAVE THIS WASTELAND!"
THIS IS THE LAST NIGHT I HAVE TO BE OUT HERE FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.
YOU GOING TO SLEEP OR PARTY?
PARTY, MAN.
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
ODDS ARE IN A YEAR OR TWO WE WILL ALL BE SLEEPING *PERMANENTLY*.
BESIDES, DONNA AND STACY WANT ME TO COME OVER!
WHUH?
KRAK
I DON'T LIKE ALL THIS *SKULKING AROUND*.
WE SHOULD JUST MARCH STRAIGHT TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE.


YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY SOLDIERS DADDY CUTTHROAT HAS.
IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO GET TO MY SECRET LAB WITHOUT A FIGHT, WE'LL BE BETTER OFF.
A MORE DIRECT APPROACH MIGHT BE NEEDED.
THE RED DEATH ISN'T WASTING TIME BEING SUBTLE.
THIS RED DEATH... IF SHE IS MEDDLING WITH TIME...CAN'T COMPREHEND HOW MUCH DAMAGE SHE'S DOING.
IN MY EXPERIENCE, THOUGH, THERE'S NO POINT IN RUSHING WHEN TIME TRAVEL IS INVOLVED.
WE'LL HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE.
I SAY WE HURRY UP...FIND THE MACHINE... AND–
I'M SORRY.
WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING, SHADOW?
--GET BACK HOME.
OUR NEW FRIEND HERE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP US.
WE NEED TO GET TO 15TH AND UNION.
TAKE US THE SAFEST WAY POSSIBLE.


SPIDER TOLD ME EARLIER ABOUT THE RED DEATH.
SHE IS ON A QUEST FOR *VENGEANCE* AND ONLY *BLOOD* WILL APPEASE HER.
SHE WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL EVERYONE SHE BELIEVES HAS WRONGED HER AND HER FAMILY IS DEAD.
WITH ACCESS TO HIS TIME MACHINE, THOUGH, WHY WOULDN'T SHE JUST CHANGE THE PAST TO PREVENT ANYTHING BAD HAPPENING TO HER FAMILY?
WHEN THE SEEDS OF *HATRED* TAKE ROOT WITHIN ONE'S HEART...
...IT CAN BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE NOBLEST SOUL TO OVERCOME.
YOU WILL LEARN THIS IF YOU STAY ON THE PATH YOU HAVE CHOSEN
THANKS FOR THE FORTUNE COOKIE ADVICE.
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.
I FEEL STRANGE, THOUGH.
MY MEMORIES... THEY'RE CHANGING...
...SHIFTING.
ALL THESE DIFFERENT *POSSIBILITIES*...
...*CRASHING* IN ON ME...


"...AS IF TIME ITSELF IS TRYING TO CRUSH ME."
LAMA, WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO FIND AT THE END OF THIS PATH?
YOU AREN'T EXPECTING TO FIND THE WIZARD AND HIS MUNCHKINS, ARE YOU?
IT WOULD SEEM THESE TOTEMS ARE MEANT TO GUIDE US
PERHAPS THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT HOW WE CAME TO BE HERE.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY... HOW WE CAN GET BACK WHERE WE BELONG.
OH MY GOD...
...YOU REALLY ARE LOOKING FOR THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS A MAN OR WOMAN...
...BUT WE NEED MORE ANSWERS THAN WE CURRENTLY HAVE.
I AGREE.
NOTHING AGAINST EITHER OF YOU LADIES...
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN DINOSAUR LAND.
TIME IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.
TO WIELD IT LIKE A WEAPON...COULD BE CATASTROPHIC.
IT IS LIKELY THAT THE RED DEATH DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE POWER AT HER DISPOSAL.


NOW *THAT* IS A T-REX.
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ALLOSAURUS.
SEE THE *FINGERS?*
WHAT I SEE IS THAT THIS THING WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY *GUNFIRE*.
SEEMS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT OF PLACE IN THIS ERA.
RIGHT YOU ARE, MISS FURY.
BUT WE'VE FOUND YOU NOW.
"WH-WHO ARE YOU?"


YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO THIS PARTY, WERE YOU?
GOOD GUESS.
BUT WHO WE ARE SHOULDN'T MATTER TO YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO STILL BE ABLE TO WALK AFTER WE ARE DONE WITH YOU...
...YOU'LL TELL US WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW.
HELLO, LITTLE GIRL.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?


I DON'T LIKE THEM.
WAIT.
DON'T GO YET.
WHERE CAN WE–
DID YOU ALL SEE THAT, TOO?
SEE WHAT?
I THINK I MAY HAVE JUST EXPERIENCED SOMETHING *IMPORTANT*.
WHO WAS SHE?
DO YOU KNOW HER?
CRASH
HERE THEY ARE!
WE'VE FOUND THEM!
KILL THEM!


"THE RED DEATH DEMANDS THEIR BLOOD!"
SO MUCH FOR STEALTH!
WE SHOULD BE PLEASED WE GOT THIS FAR WITHOUT A CONFRONTATION!
BUT--YES-- OUR RUSE IS AT AN END!
BLAM
BLAM BLAM
SPIDER!
HOW MUCH FARTHER DO WE NEED TO GO?
WE'RE CLOSE!
DADDY CUTTHROAT MIGHT HAVE CLAIMED THESE BUILDINGS AS HIS TERRITORY...
...BUT IT'S DOUBTFUL HE COULD HAVE BREACHED MY LABS!


WHAT?
WHAT MANNER OF *TRICKERY* IS THIS?
TIME IS OUT OF PHASE!
SHIFTING!
IT WILL ONLY GET *WORSE* UNTIL WE *UNDO* THE DAMAGE THAT'S BEEN CAUSED!
THE LAYOUT'S THE SAME.
THE LAB SHOULD BE CONCEALED SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...
...LIKE A PANIC ROOM.
YOU'RE *SURE?*
MANY YEARS MIGHT HAVE PASSED SINCE I STARTED WORK ON THE PROTOTYPE.
BUT...FOR ME IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE.
THEN *STEP ASIDE.*


THOOM
YES.
THAT'S ONE WAY TO DO IT.
PUNCH THAT COMBINATION IN— NOW!
OUR FRIENDS ARE BACK—
AND THERE ARE MORE OF THEM!
FSSSSSH
HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN!


"AND PRAY IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO GET THE TIME MACHINE UP AND RUNNING!"
THE GIRL!
WE NEED TO FIND HER!
WHATEVER WE DO— WE BETTER MAKE IT FAST!
THOSE MURDER-HUNGRY MASQUERADERS ARE RIGHT BEHIND US.
THAT TRUNK'S NOT GOING TO HOLD THEM FOREVER.
THIS GIRL YOU SAW...
...WHY IS SHE SO IMPORTANT?
DON'T YOU FEEL IT?
TIME...
...BREAKING UP...
...AND THAT GIRL...
...SHE'S AT THE CENTER OF IT.
I THINK I KNOW HER.
OR I KNOW WHO SHE'LL BECOME.

BANG BANG
IT'S...
CRASH
...TOO LATE.
EVERYONE READY FOR A LAST STAND?
FWWOOOOOOOSH


WE'VE FOUND THEM!
AT LAST!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
HOW MANY FAILED ATTEMPTS?
NOW...WE CAN FINALLY SET THINGS RIGHT!


ISSUE
SEVEN



issue #7 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


BLACK TERROR OF THE SEAS
PAULA CANNON AKA "THUNDERBOLT"
DEADLY BLACK SPARROW
THE SHADOW
THE GREEN SPIRIT LAMA
BLACK BATS
LADY SATANIC
MISS FURIOUS
MISS FURY AND ANNABELLE
RED SPIDER
GREEN HORNET
KATO
GREEN HORNET
MULAN KATO
BLACK SPARROW
THE SPIDER


YOU COULDN'T HAVE ARRIVED AT A BETTER TIME.
TIME...
...YES...
...NOW THAT IS THE *PROBLEM*, ISN'T IT?


ZZZZRAX
NOW *THAT* IS *DIFFERENT.*
YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T DEVELOPED HIGH VOLTAGE STUNNERS YET?
NICE JOB, KATO.
OOOF
GROWWL
GAAAAHHHHH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
BANG BANG
BRTTT-TAT-T


THAT WAS A MOST INVIGORATING BATTLE...
...THE LIKES OF WHICH OCCURS WHEN TWO PIRATE CAPTAINS FACE EACH OTHER ON THE OPEN SEA!
UH...THANKS FOR THE ASSISTANCE BUT...
...WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU?
I MEAN... I KNOW WHO YOU LOOK LIKE--
--BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
CAREFUL NOW HORNET, I HAVE KILLED MEN FOR LESSER AFFRONTS.
AND YOU KNOW WHO I AM!
THE BLACK TERROR OF THE SEAS!
YOU ARE ME, ARE YOU NOT?
YOU DO REALIZE THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING REPERCUSSIONS OF ENCOUNTERING EACH OTHER.
YES, WE ARE ONE AND THE SAME...
...AND YET WE ARE NOT.
WHILE YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS HAVE BEEN TRAPPED HERE IN THIS TIME...
...OUR GROUP HAS BEEN MANY PLACES AND MANY TIMES.


"WE WERE TOSSED INTO THE TIME STREAM...LOST FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE YEARS.
"BUT THE ACTIONS OF THE RED DEATH HAVE CREATED HAVOC.
"TIME IS BREAKING DOWN...
"...BENDING AROUND US...
"...CHANGING US...
"...SOME MORE THAN OTHERS.
"BUT CHANGING THE WORLD AS WELL.
"EVERY MOVE WE MAKE IS CAUSING A RIPPLE EFFECT...
"...REALITY IS REWRITING ITSELF!"


IT IS LIKE TIME HAS BEEN GIVING US *HINTS*...
...TRYING TO *GUIDE* US...
...TELLING US HOW TO *FIX* IT.
I WAS ABLE TO BUILD A NEW TIME MACHINE, BUT IT IS... *TWITCHY* AT BEST.
WITH JUST A CASUAL EXAMINATION, THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT.
I THINK THE PROBLEM IS THAT IT WAS BUILT IN A *BROKEN TIME*.
SO THE *CALIBRATION* IS OFF.
PRECISELY SO.
THE RED DEATH CAUSED THIS MESS.
I BELIEVE THE ONLY WAY TO RIGHT THINGS IS TO PREVENT THE RED DEATH FROM EVER COMING INTO BEING.
THE RED DEATH... THIS MADWOMAN WHO IS CAUSING ALL THIS TROUBLE... SAW HER FAMILY DESTROYED BY SHADOWY FORCES.
IN MANY WAYS, SHE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SCARED, CONFUSED LITTLE GIRL.
AND SHE WASN'T SET ON THIS PATH UNTIL LATER IN LIFE.
ARE YOU SAYING WE NEED TO *KILL* HER BEFORE SHE GOES BAD?


SHE NAMED HERSELF AFTER THE CABAL THAT MURDERED HER FATHER.
A SINGULAR EVENT THAT DOOMED HER TO HER FATE...
...AND IN A WAY DOOMED THE WORLD AS WELL.
SO IF WE CAN STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING...
...SHE WOULD NEVER BECOME THE RED DEATH.
AND NONE OF THIS WOULD EVER HAVE HAPPENED?
EXACTLY.
THE FIENDS WHO ARE IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS PARTY TONIGHT...
...THEY WERE REENACTING SCENES FROM THE "MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH" STORY.
THE ENTITIES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD WHISPER THESE TRUTHS TO ME.
AND I SAW A GIRL...ONE WHO VANISHED BEFORE MY EYES.
IF TIME ITSELF IS TRYING TO GIVE US HINTS AS TO HOW TO CORRECT THIS PROBLEM...
...PERHAPS WE ARE HERE TO DESTROY THE ORGANIZATION BEFORE THEY SET THE CHILD ON HER PATH.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE HAD BEST MOVE QUICKLY.
WHO WANTS TO BET OUR "HOST" IS IN THAT GETAWAY CAR?


STAND ASIDE!
THE DARKNESS HOLDS NO SHELTER FOR EVIL TONIGHT!
THE SHADOW KNOWS!
BRRRTT-TAT-TAT-TAT
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
WHA-BOOM
OKAY THEN.
ANYONE ELSE WANT TO JOIN THOSE TWO?
IT MIGHT BE MORE PRUDENT FOR THOSE WHO CAN *FLY* TO GIVE CHASE.
BLACK TERROR, LADY SATANIC, AND MYSELF.
KATO AND I WILL COME WITH YOU...IF YOU WILL CARRY US.
SAME GOES FOR ME.


RED SPIDER AND I NEED TO TRY AND GET OUR–
MY.
--OUR TIME MACHINE WORKING PROPERLY.
WHILE YOU TRY AND GET THE GHOST IN YOUR MACHINE SORTED OUT, THE REST OF US SHOULD SEARCH THE CASTLE.
THERE MAY BE FURTHER CLUES TO BE FOUND.
QUITE A GOOD IDEA.
THE PASSAGE IS TOO SMALL, ANNABELLE.
I GUESS YOU GET TO STAY UP HERE WITH THE SPIDERS FOR A BIT.
DON'T WORRY.
KRRNK
MAMA WILL BE BACK SOON.
LET'S JUST HOPE...


"...TIME DOESN'T CHANGE SO MUCH THAT WE DON'T RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER!"
KEEP A WEATHER EYE OUT, HORNET!
I SENSE ANOTHER CHANGE IN OUR REALITY.
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW WE MIGHT BE AFFECTED!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, TERROR.
I'LL TRY TO STAY ON MY—
BZZZZZZZZZ
VVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVV
SKKKKRRRRKK
AHHHH!

YEEEEEAAAAAGGHHH!
THIS CHASE ENDS NOW!
KRR-SMASH
COME WITH ME, DARLING.
N-NO!
LET GO!
WHAT IS THIS?
THE CHASE HAS ENDED...
...AS SUCH EVENTS OFTEN DO...
...IN BLOOD AND TEARS AND MEWLING FOR MERCY...

BUT IT IS NOT THE TIME FOR FORGIVENESS.
THE TIME FOR ANSWERS IS AT HAND.
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO REDEEM YOURSELF.
THE JUSTICE MATRIX DEMANDS PENANCE!
YOU...
...YOU HAVE RUINED EVERYTHING...
...ALL WE HAVE TRIED TO BUILD....
BOSS...
IS THAT YOU?
YESSS KATO.
WE HAVE NOT BEEN APART SSSO LONG THAT YOU NO LONGER RECOGNIZE ME.
BUT...
...WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER THIS ENTIRE TIME.


YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
WE KNOW *ENOUGH*.
AND WE ARE HERE TO PUT AN END TO YOUR ORGANIZATION.
AN *END?*
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A *CLUE*.
YOU CANNOT DESTROY US.
EVEN IF YOU *ASSASSINATE* ME... OUR POWER IS *FAR-REACHING*.


"WE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THIS COUNTRY.
"OUR ACTIONS HAVE HELPED SHAPE HISTORY.
"WE HAVE BEEN KINGMAKERS THROUGHOUT MORE NATIONS AND ERAS THAN YOU CAN CONCEIVE.
"BUILDING AND TOPPLING GOVERNMENTS AT OUR WHIM.
"WE HAVE PERVERTED AND CREATED RELIGIONS.
"THERE IS NOT AN ASPECT OF MODERN SOCIETY THAT WE HAVE NOT HELPED SHAPE."


WHO ARE *YOU* TO THINK YOU CAN DESTROY THE *HAND OF GOD?*
WHAT–
CLNK-CLUNK-CLNK
GGGHHK! HHHKK!
HSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY *VENGEANCE*.
EVEN DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THESE HEROES IS NOT AN OPTION FOR YOU.


NOTHING WILL STAND IN MY WAY.
NO ONE CAN DISSUADE ME FROM MY QUEST.
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T SEE WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING?
THE RED DEATH CONTROLS TIME ITSELF NOW.
I SAW YOUR PLAN UNFOLD THE MOMENT YOU CONSIDERED IT.
AND I HAVE COME TO STOP YOU.
LADY SATANIC...
...THE GAS.
I CAN CONTAIN THE VAPORS...
...BUT HAVE TO MAINTAIN MY CONCENTRATION.


FEAR NOT, LADY SATANIC!
BLACK TERROR OF THE SEAS HAS YOUR *BACKSIDE* THIS DAY.
AND MANY DAYS TO COME AS WELL.
VOORP
VOORP
THIS CRAZY WOMAN WOULD STOP US FROM SAVING HER OWN FATHER...
...FROM SPARING HER FROM A LIFE OF MISERY!
IS *REVENGE* SO *IMPORTANT* TO HER?
LET'S GET SOME *AIR*, BOYS.
WHERE IS THE RED DEATH?
MY SCANNERS NO LONGER DETECT HER.
SHE MUST HAVE VANISHED RIGHT AFTER–
AHH!


FINALLY!
WE FOUND YOU!
FINALLY?
WE ONLY LEFT YOU FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.
NO.
TIME CONTINUES TO SHIFT.
WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU FOR THREE YEARS.
THE RED DEATH WAS HERE... ALBEIT MOMENTARILY.
SHE KNOWS WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO.
SHE ENDEAVORS TO STOP US.
INTERESTING.
THE RED DEATH SHOWED UP WITH THE SOLE INTENT TO KILL THIS MAN.
I GUESS HE DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH TO DO WITH MURDERING HER FATHER AS HE THOUGHT.
SHE IS SO CONSUMED BY ANGER THAT SHE'D LET HER OWN FATHER DIE.
SHE'LL TRY TO STOP US FROM PREVENTING THE MURDER THAT SET HER QUEST IN MOTION.
WE DIDN'T LEARN MUCH FROM THIS GUY BEFORE HE DIED.
ONLY THAT THEIR LITTLE CLUB SEEMS TO HAVE ITS ROOTS LACED THROUGHOUT ALL OF CIVILIZATION.


DON'T WORRY.
BEFORE WE LEFT THE CASTLE, WE UNCOVERED SOME OF THE ORGANIZATION'S *HISTORY*.
TIME IS *FLUID* AROUND US...OUR *MEMORIES* CHANGING...
...BUT WE'VE *FOUGHT* TO REMEMBER THE DETAILS.
I KNOW *HOW* TO END THIS THREAT ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I KNOW *WHERE* WE MUST GO.
BUT WE MUST ALL BE GATHERED TOGETHER BEFORE MAKING OUR FINAL MOVE.
WE MUST, HOWEVER, MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF THE *ANOMALIES* ARE PRESENT WHEN REALITY RESETS.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SHADOW WERE NOT THERE WHEN WE FIXED THINGS...
...HE WOULD REMAIN IN HIS ENHANCED ROBOTIC STATE.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ANNABELLE?
SHE WOULD RETURN TO HER *APPROPRIATE TIME*...
...AS WOULD THE REST OF US.
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR THEN?
ONE LAST STOP.


EGYPT. 252 B.C.


ISSUE
EIGHT



issue #8 cover by BUTCH GUICE | colors by ALEX GUIMARÃES


EGYPT 252 B.C.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR HERE?
ANY SIGN OF THE RED DEATH.
THIS IS WHERE THE ORGANIZATION TRULY BEGAN.
LADY SATANIC– YOU'RE UP.
SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO.
I AUDITION FOR NO MAN.
I DO, HOWEVER, KNOW THE PART I PLAY IN THIS SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY IN WHICH WE'VE FOUND OURSELVES TRAPPED.
SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY?
WHO TALKS LIKE THAT?
FOR THAT MATTER, WHO READS THAT STUFF?
I AGREE.
I WOULD SAY THIS IS MUCH MORE OF A FAUSTIAN DRAMA.
REALLY? HAVE NONE OF YOU READ POE?
THE RED DEATH HAS PRACTICALLY STEPPED FROM THE PAGES OF HIS BOOK.


MEANWHILE, ABOUT 500 YARDS TO THE EAST
I HOPE WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE STEALTHY GROUP.
REALLY, WE'RE TEAMING UP WITH A GIANT INSECT.
THE ONLY GROUP LESS STEALTHY IS THE ONE WITH THE DINOSAUR.
NOW SHUT UP AND START LOOKING FOR WHAT WE ARE AFTER.
ABOUT THAT...I KNOW WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR ANY CLUES ABOUT THE CREATION OF THIS SECRET SOCIETY.
THE ONE THAT TRACES ITS INCEPTION BACK TO THE DEATH OF THIS PHARAOH...
I CAN'T ACTUALLY READ ANYTHING ON THIS SCROLL.
HIEROGLYPHICS WERE NEVER MY THING.
CAN ANY OF YOU READ THIS?


MEANWHILE, SEVERAL LEVELS UNDERGROUND.
ALL THESE CORRIDORS LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
ARE YOU SURE WE'RE NOT JUST LOST AND WANDERING AIMLESSLY?
WE HAVE BEEN LOST AND WANDERING AIMLESSLY FOR SOME TIME NOW.
WE'RE RIGHT WHERE WE NEED TO BE.
BUT WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR?
DO YOU THINK WE ARE JUST GOING TO FIND A ROOM FULL OF EGYPTIANS TALKING ABOUT THIS GREAT IDEA THEY HAVE FOR A SECRET SOCIETY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE FIND...
...OR WHAT WE DON'T FIND.
WE KEEP LOOKING.
AND WE KEEP FIGHTING.
BECAUSE IT IS WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.
THAT'S AS GOOD A REASON AS ANY.


WHA–
YOUR GROUP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SEARCHING THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PYRAMID.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELL, WE *FOUND* SOMETHING.
I FOUND SOMETHING IS WHAT SHE MEANS.
BUT WE HAVE A *PROBLEM*.
NO ONE IN OUR LITTLE GROUP CAN ACTUALLY *READ* ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS.
SO HOW ABOUT IT SPIDER, CAN YOU TELL US IF *THIS* IS WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR?
THAT HAS VERY LITTLE USE TO US.
IT MERELY DETAILS HOW TO BUILD THE PYRAMIDS, WHAT MATERIALS TO USE, HOW MUCH LABOR IS INVOLVED, WHEN THE PROJECT STARTED AND HOW LONG UNTIL IT--
WE GET THE IDEA.
SO NOTHING *IMPORTANT*.
FIGURES. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY STEP WE TAKE IS JUST ONE MORE IN A *USELESS CIRCLE*.
A PATH THAT THE *FATE* OF THE *PLANET* RIDES ON.
WE CAN'T DESPAIR NOW BECAUSE ONE LITTLE THING DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED.
KRONK!


THAT SOUNDED LIKE THE DINOSAUR--LIKE ANNABELLE.
DON'T TELL ME THEY CAME DOWN HERE TOO.
I THINK WE NEED TO MOVE FROM HERE.
WHATEVER IS COMING IS NOT COMING ALONE.
READY YOURSELVES, YE RAPSCALLIONS.
WE HAVE A MESS OF BILGE RATS AFTER US, ENOUGH TO MAKE DAVEY JONES HIDE AWAY IN HIS LOCKER!


HRONNNK
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA


THIS BATTLE IS GETTING US NOWHERE.
WE NEED TO REGROUP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
THIS WAY.
WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED THIS CHAMBER I THOUGHT I NOTICED A HIDDEN DOORWAY.
INTERESTING.
AS I LOOKED AT THE WALL I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE IT DIFFERENT, BUT AS SOON AS YOU REMOVED THE TORCH I CLEARLY REMEMBERED IT.
QUICKLY EVERYONE.
QUITE A ROOM YOU'VE CHOSEN, SPIDER.
WE'LL HOLD THE DOOR AS OUR ALLIES RETREAT.
AND THEY SAY CHIVALRY IS DEAD!
WHY DO WE HIDE LIKE WOMEN WHEN THERE ARE RAPSCALLIONS TO BE DEALT WITH?
JUST GET YOUR RAPIER INSIDE.


JUST AS WELL. I WAS OUT OF AMMUNITION.
WHEREVER WE GO NEXT MUST HAVE GUNPOWDER.
OR PERHAPS SOMEPLACE WITH LESS VIOLENCE ALLOWING US ALL TO FIND OUR INNER PEACE.
THERE HASN'T BEEN A MOMENT OF PEACE SINCE I MET ANY OF YOU!
PART OF ME ENJOYS THE CONSTANT CHAOS.
KRONK!
I THINK THAT'S EVERYONE.
UNLESS YOU WANTED SOME OF THE EUNUCHS AS WELL.
HOLY COW. IS THAT THING FOR REAL?


WE ARE INSIDE A PYRAMID IN ANCIENT EGYPT.
WHAT DID YOU *EXPECT* TO FIND?
THE RED DEATH CULT ORIGINATES HERE.
I KNOW IT.
OUR MANY JAUNTS THROUGH TIME HAVE PROVEN THIS TO BE TRUE.
AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO BATTLE OUR WAY PAST THESE GUARDS TO FIND THE PROGENITORS.
HOLD ON.
MAYBE I DON'T UNDERSTAND TIME TRAVEL...
...BUT IT SEEMS THAT WE'RE GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG.
I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A LESSON, GIRL.
I'M JUST WONDERING...
...THIS RED DEATH CULT...IT HAS PLOTTED THE FATE OF NATIONS.
STOPPING IT FROM FORMING...
...COULDN'T THAT MESS UP TIME EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE?
...
OKAY THEN.
FROM THE MOUTHS OF CHILDREN.
TIME TO MAKE OUR *EXIT*...
...AND LET'S NEVER TALK OF THIS AGAIN.


CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 1917
I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND RUDE HERE...
...BUT I AM THINKING SOME OF US NEED TO STAY BEHIND.
THIS IS JUST A TALK AFTER ALL.
THE LAST THING WE NEED IS A FIGHT BREAKING OUT.
WHO IS TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT A FIGHT IS NEEDED?
JUSTICE NEEDS WAIT FOR NO DIALOGUE.
NOT THIS TIME, SHADOW.
LET US TRY IT THIS WAY FIRST.
BESIDES, WE CAN ALWAYS FALL BACK ON VIOLENCE IF ALL ELSE FAILS.
THE SPIDER DOES NOT KNOW WHAT EVILS LURK WITHIN THE HEARTS OF MEN...
...AND WOMEN.
BUT THE SHADOW KNOWS.
TALK FOR NOW, BUT FORCEFULNESS WILL BE NEEDED.


"AND SOON."
KNOCK KNOCK
HOW ARE WE EXPECTING THIS CONVERSATION TO GO?
WHAT?
YOU DON'T THINK WE SHOULD START WITH "YOUR DAUGHTER WILL UNLEASH A PLAGUE THAT DECIMATES THE WORLD POPULATION. PLEASE LET US IN."
H-HELLO?
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
THIS MAY SOUND CRAZY, BUT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE TALK TO YOU AND YOUR WIFE RIGHT NOW.
LISTEN, IF THE LANDLORD SENT YOU HERE AFTER THE RENT, I CAN EXPLAIN.
ACTUALLY, DAVID...
...YOUR DAUGHTER WILL UNLEASH A PLAGUE THAT DECIMATES THE WORLD POPULATION.

"PLEASE LET US IN."
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU STILL HAVE ANY BULLETS LEFT FOR THOSE GUNS OF YOURS?
ONE MUST ALWAYS BE MORE PREPARED THAN THE WICKED.
WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA.
I DECIDED THAT I NEEDED TO BE BETTER PREPARED, TOO.
IT IS AMAZING HOW PREDICTABLE YOU ARE.
I AM HONESTLY SURPRISED THAT YOU DIDN'T TRY COMING HERE SOONER.
KRRNCSH
YOU?
THERE IS NO WAY YOU WIN.
WE HAVE FOUGHT YOU EVERYWHERE AND ANYWHERE.
YES. YOU HAVE.
AND YET HERE I AM, ONCE AGAIN READY TO FIGHT.
AND THIS TIME SHALL BE THE LAST TIME...


I WOULD OFFER TO LET YOU SURRENDER...
...BUT YOUR DEATHS WILL BE SO MUCH MORE SATISFYING TO ME.
TONIGHT SHALL BE THE LAST STAND OF THE MASKED HEROES.
AND THE LAST THING YOU SHALL EACH SEE AS YOU DIE WILL BE MY MASK.
ZZAK
SNAP
CRACK
THESE SCALLYWAGS ARE A BIT TOUGHER THAN THE LAST BUNCH WE FOUGHT!


YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT US BY SURPRISE...
...BUT THAT IS NOT THE SAME AS BEATING US.
PERSONALLY...
...I PREFER TO FIGHT UNTIL THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD.
AND I CAN GUARANTEE THE LAST DROPS WILL NOT BE MINE.
KI-YA
RAWR!
NOW ANNABELLE!
WHEN WILL THEY FINALLY LEARN?
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
KRONK?
WHAMM


NOOOOOO!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT ENDS.
NOT LIKE–




JURASSIC ERA
THE MOST AMAZING THING ABOUT THIS TIME IS THE ALMOST COMPLETE CALM AND SERENITY THAT ENVELOPES THE LANDSCAPE.
THE WILDLIFE COMES AND GOES, BUT THERE HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN TIMES WHERE I MAY GO SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT SEEING ANYTHING.
IT IS FUNNY THOUGH, BEFORE THIS ESCAPADE WITH THE RED DEATH...
...IN ALL MY TRAVELS...
...I HAD NEVER GONE BACK THIS FAR.
NEVER TRAVELLED TO THE TIME BEFORE HUMANITY...
...WHEN DINOSAURS WERE THE NATIVE SPECIES OF EARTH...


ELLIS ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY
AND WHAT AN ADVENTURE TO BE PART OF.
SUCH AN AMAZING GROUP OF HEROES TO HAVE MET AND FOUGHT ALONGSIDE.
FIRST OFF, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE THIS MORNING.
I AM PRETTY SURE THAT THIS TIME YESTERDAY YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING.
I KNOW I DIDN'T.
HEROES BOTH OLD AND NEW.
BUT TIMES CHANGE. AND OUR PRIORITIES IN LIFE CHANGE, WHETHER WE WANT THEM TO OR NOT.
TWO YEARS AGO I LEFT NEW YORK WITH EVERYONE IN THE CITY THINKING I WAS DEAD.
AND I PLANNED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. I WAS DEALING WITH A PERSONAL JOURNEY THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN.
AT LEAST EVERYONE ONLY "THOUGHT" YOU WERE DEAD.
AND EVEN ONE OR TWO THAT FIT BOTH OF THOSE DESCRIPTIONS.
THAT JOURNEY HAS TAKEN ME AROUND THE WORLD AND BROUGHT ME RIGHT BACK TO NEW YORK CITY.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THIS CITY IS MY HOME AND I COULD ONLY STAY AWAY FOR SO LONG.
I DO BELIEVE I SHALL PAY PETER A VISIT SOON.
I THINK THE TWO OF US COULD HAVE SOME AMAZING ADVENTURES.
YESTERDAY, PETER CANNON CAME HOME.
AT SOME POINT WE SHOULD FIND A BETTER HOME THAN THE HOTEL ROOM WE STAYED IN LAST NIGHT.
PREFERABLY ONE WITHOUT AS MANY SURPRISE GUESTS!
NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THAT NEW GREEN HORNET.
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IS A BIT UNSETTLING.
TODAY IS THE DAY THAT THUNDERBOLT HAS RETURNED TO THE CITY.


AND THE LOVELY LADIES FROM THE SEVENTIES.
I WON'T BE VISITING THEM ANYTIME SOON. I COULDN'T STAND THE SEVENTIES WHEN I LIVED THROUGH THEM.
NO WAY WOULD YOU CATCH ME SLIPPING INTO A DISCO SUIT AND REVISITING THAT ERA.
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1978
NOVEMBER 23, 1978
NOVEMBER 26, 1978
DECEMBER 2, 1978
DECEMBER 5, 1978
ESMERALDA AGUILAR
BORN
DIED


THE BRONX, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
AH, THE GOLDEN AGE. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE THIRTIES THAT WILL ALWAYS APPEAL TO ME.
NOT JUST BECAUSE I GOT MY START BACK THEN, MANY OF US DID.
UNKNOWN
OCTOBER 17, 1937
IT WAS A SIMPLER TIME IN SO MANY WAYS.
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
QUEENS, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
ALTHOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT LADY SATAN DOES SCARE ME JUST A BIT.
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
BUT WE WERE ALL HEROES BACK THEN IN OUR OWN RIGHT...
TIBET
OCTOBER 17, 1937
...AND FOR OUR OWN REASONS.


MANHATTAN, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
THE STORY OF THE *RED DEATH* BEGAN AS A *TRAGEDY*.
RACHEL BAKER'S LIFE HAD BEEN TERRIBLE BECAUSE OF THE ORGANIZATION THAT KILLED HER PARENTS.
IN MANY WAYS, A CHILDISH TANTRUM BEING THROWN ACROSS TIME.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 17, 1937
BILLIONS SUFFERED AND DIED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF HER ACTIONS.
AND YET IN THE END, A DIFFERENT SORT OF TRAGEDY PREVENTED IT ALL.
NONE OF THE HEROES INVOLVED EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.
QUEENS, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 17, 1937
PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE OF THE TEMPORAL ENERGIES I HAVE SPENT A LIFETIME EXPLORING, BUT I ALONE KNOW THE STORY OF THE RED DEATH. THE TRUE STORY THAT IS.
A STORY THAT ULTIMATELY HAD A *HEROIC* ENDING.
WHEN SHE INADVERTENTLY CAUSED HER OWN DEATH, IT CAUSED HER FATHER TO EMBRACE THE ROLE OF HERO.
DAVID BAKER *BECAME* THE RED DEATH.
A HERO LOOKING TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF HIS DAUGHTER WHO DIED TRAGICALLY.
End

ALTERNATE

COVER GALLERY





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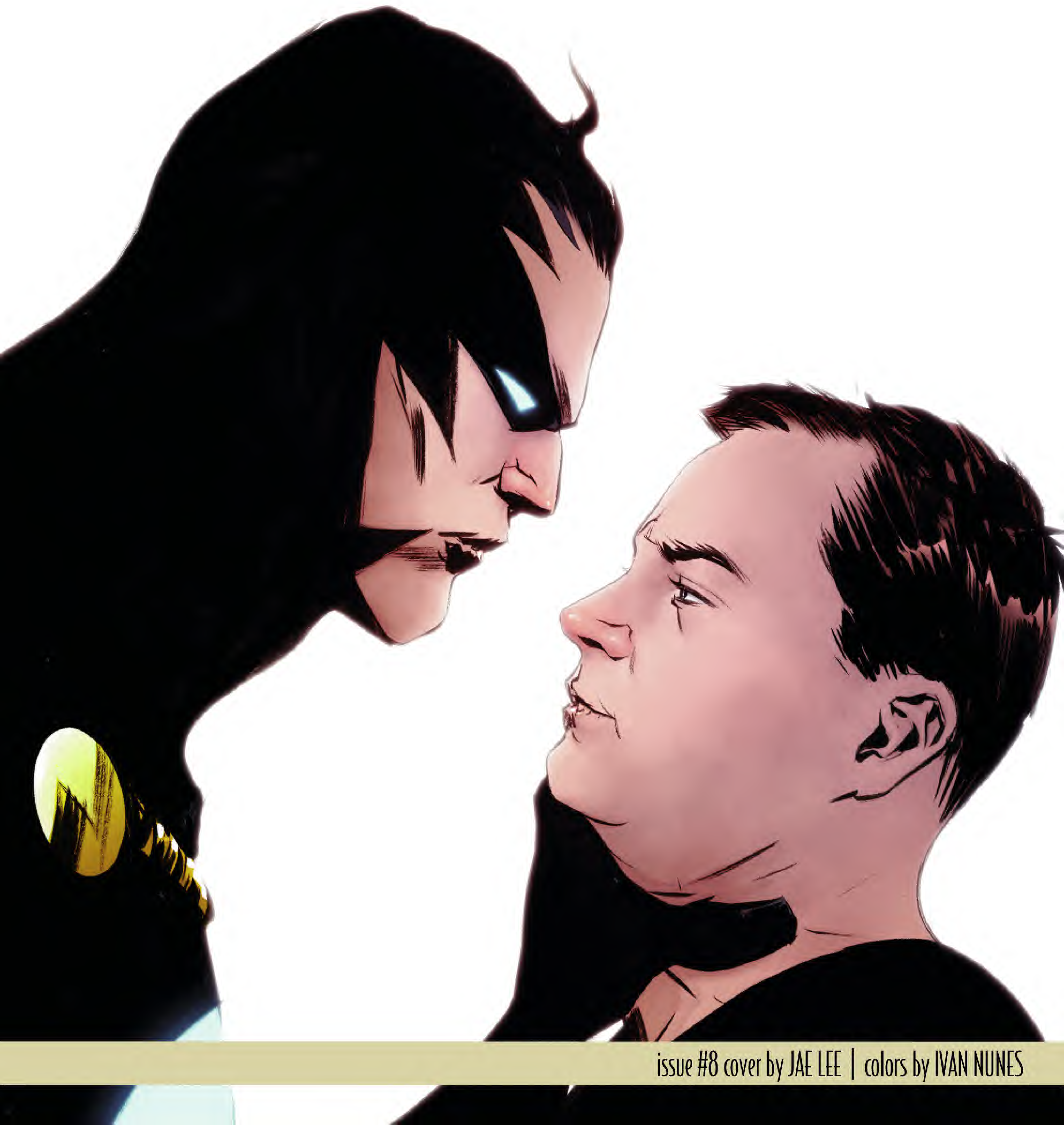
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THE SHADOW, THE SPIDER, THE GREEN HORNET, KATO, ZORRO, THE BLACK BAT, MISS FURY, BLACK TERROR, THE GREEN LAMA! ALL TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME!



"Roberson and Ross have a great, fresh handle on these characters that I'm enthused to keep investigating their world."
– ComicBookResources

"It belongs on the radio. Which is a real credit to writer Chris Roberson, as it shows he's able to translate the voice of these icons of pulp onto the page. His take on the Shadow is darn near pitch-perfect. Make no mistake, Ross is never better than when he's drawing the greats, and these players are the indeed the greats."
– Newsarama.com

"This event proves that crossovers could be fun and smart without being cliche."
– UnleashTheFanboy

"Anyone can pick this up and read it. You don't need to be reading Green Hornet, The Shadow, Zorro, or The Spider to fully appreciate these characters and this story. I really like the collaboration between Roberson and Ross here. I think they're a perfect fit for this world and story."
–ComicVine

MASKS VOLUME ONE TRADE PAPERBACK

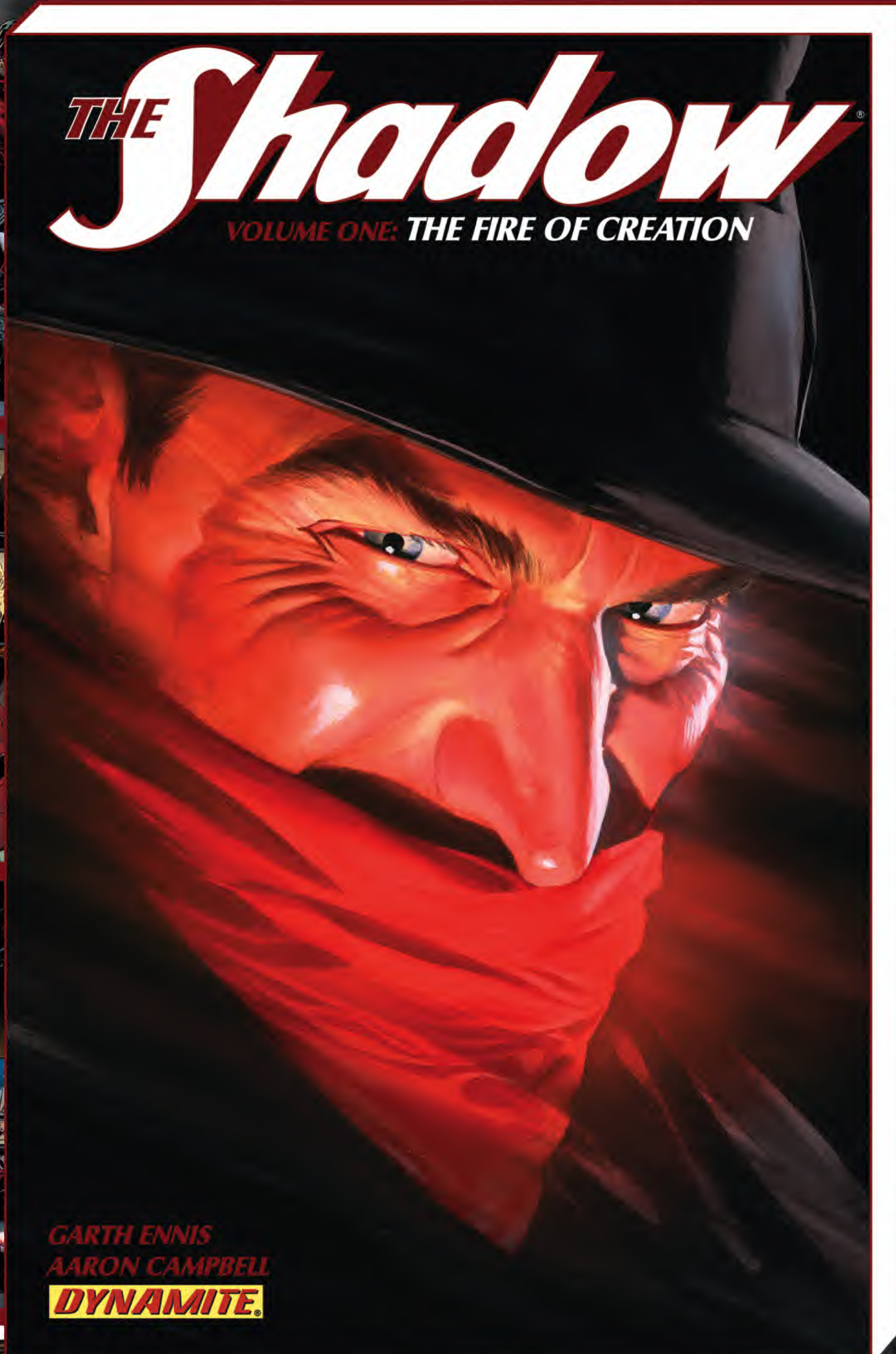
Written by CHRIS ROBERSON Art by ALEX ROSS and DENNIS CALERO Cover by ALEX ROSS

Collecting the entire 8-issue mini-series along with a complete cover gallery featuring the art of Alex Ross, Jae Lee, Ardian Syaf, Francesco Francavilla, Sean Phillips and many more!

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THE SHADOW VOL. 1: THE FIRE OF CREATION TRADE PAPERBACK

written by **GARTH ENNIS** art by **AARON CAMPBELL**
cover by **ALEX ROSS**

"The Shadow is powerful, scary and full of crazy new powers of which most people are probably unaware. And under Garth Ennis' crafty pen, he is intimidating and interesting, both in and out of costume. I look forward to reading about the evil lurking in the hearts of men, especially if this version of the Shadow is on the case"
– NEWSARAMA

VOLUMES 2-4 ALSO AVAILABLE!

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BEST OF
PROJECT SUPERPOWERS
PROJECT SUPERPOWERS
DYNAMITE
PROJECT SUPERPOWERS: CHAPTER TWO
DYNAMITE ALEX ROSS • JIM KRUEGER • EDGAR SALAZAR
DYNAMITE
BLACK TERROR
ALEX ROSS • JIM KRUEGER • MIKE LILLY
DYNAMITE
The DEATH-DEFYING 'DEVIL
ALEX ROSS • JOE CASEY • EDGAR SALAZAR
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MASKS 2

MASKS 2

The Shadow. The Green Hornet and Kato. Black Terror. The Spider. Peter Cannon, Thunderbolt. Miss Fury. These are just a few of the masked vigilantes drawn into a mystery that spans the decades. Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's infamous short story and able to kill thousands of people in mere seconds, the Red Death hosts a bizarre masquerade across the 1930s, 1970s, modern day, and beyond, exposing her hapless victims to plague and threatening a legacy of costumed heroes. Over a dozen crime-fighters must risk their lives, hurling themselves into the time stream, to halt the madwoman's bloodbath!

Collecting the complete 8-issue mini series by Cullen Bunn, Eman Casallos and Adriano Augusto along with a compelte cover gallery featuring the art of Butch Guice, Jae Lee, Gabriel Hardman, and Colton Worley!

"Greatly exceeded expectations."
- Pop Culture Uncovered

"Explosive opening (and) intense character interaction."
- Unleash the Fanboy

"A tantalising tale... as the creative team gives us
a dynamic and unique look into the world of pulp."
- SnapPow.com



RATED T+ SUGGESTED FOR TEENS AND UP

SUPERHERO